

State of Oklahoma honors tribe

The Choctaw Nation has been honored by the Oklahoma State Senate for its outstanding support of the National Guard and Reserve as well as veterans.

Sen. Jay Paul Gumm, a Democrat from Durant, was author of Senate Resolution 48, praising the tribe which was the recipient of the 2008 Pro Patria Award – the highest honor bestowed for support of military men and women. The Choctaw Nation was also awarded the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

“Oklahomans who serve our country do so at tremendous personal expense and risk. The Choctaw Nation has gone above and beyond to support those men and women,” Gumm said. “They are a shining example

of how employers and communities can go that extra mile for our military personnel.”

The Choctaw Nation provides pay differential, 30 days paid military leave per year, insurance, care packages and phone cards as well as equipment, including special knives and walkie-talkies which were sent to the 95th Reservists so that transport teams could communicate during low visibility.

“The Choctaw Nation has long supported the defense of our nation, with citizens fighting for America in World War I who became the original code talkers – and this was at a time when they did not even have full citizenship rights within the United States,” Gumm said.

The Choctaw Tribal Council also

funds a Veterans Advocacy Program, an annual Veterans Ceremony, and has provided property and funding for a Veterans Cemetery. The tribe also purchased an ultrasound machine for detecting embedded shrapnel in wounded soldiers, and has provided emergency assistance for families while military members are deployed.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle said it was an honor to appear before the Senate, and noted the Choctaw Nation supported both Choctaw and non-Choctaw troops.

“You can’t ask any more from the veterans,” Pyle said. “They leave their families, their wives and their children and sometimes they don’t return home, so you can’t do too much for them.”



Incumbents in Council race face no opposition

Six incumbent Tribal Councilmen arrived early May 11 to file with the Choctaw Nation Election Board for the upcoming election in July. Filing remained open until 4:30 p.m. May 13, and in what may be the first time in history, none of the six Councilmembers had an opponent throw their hat into the race.

Serving for another term will be Delton Cox, District 4, northern LeFlore County; Joe Coley, District 6, Latimer County; Jack Austin, District 7, Pushmataha County; Ted Dosh, District 9, Bryan County; Anthony Dillard, District 10, Atoka County; and James Frazier, District 12, Coal and southern Hughes counties.



the TRAIL of TEARS

Commemorative walk held May 16 at historic Skullyville Cemetery

❖ More on Page 7



Okla Chahta Princesses chosen

Chief Greg Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton assist with the crowning of the Okla Chahta Princesses in Bakersfield, California. Reigning in 2009-10 are Little Miss Mia Lim, Sr. Miss Lindsey Reader and Jr. Miss Callie Stephens. ❖ More on Page 10.

Senior Day is great fun!

Photos of this year’s hat contest winners, the top gospel singers and winning name tags are on Page 12.



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Choctaw Nation named Partner for Progress

Kiamichi Technology Centers looking forward to continued affiliation with tribal programs

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is a partner with Kiamichi Technology Centers in the truest sense. The Choctaw Nation is situated within the 13 counties that the Kiamichi Technology Centers District serves. It employs over 7,000 individuals within the organization. Many of the individuals are of Choctaw descent as well as many other nationalities.

As a Partner for Progress, the Choctaw Nation’s many organizational units contribute to economic development at the highest level. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma operates businesses involved in entertainment, health care, manufacturing, defense contracting and the service industry.

Career Development of the Choctaw Nation has contributed over \$400,000 in educational benefits for students and educational entities including Kiamichi Technology Centers. These benefits include but are not limited to career development, vocational education, health services, social services, and employment opportunities within the southeastern part of the state.

The Choctaw Nation participates and encourages members to get involved in community services and influencing a green envi-



Brian Hallmark, Mike Goodwin, Vickie Richards, Dr. Ken English, Robin Counce, Shelly Free and Chief Pyle.

ronment to preserve its presence in our state.

“Kiamichi Technology Centers are proud to nominate the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as our Partner for Progress for 2009. We look forward to working together and assisting the Choctaw Nation today, tomorrow and in the distant future to accomplish their mission and ours to build self-worth and ensure economic prosperity for the citizens of Southeastern Oklahoma,” stated a press release from KTC.

Emergency Response Complex opens in Durant

The Choctaw Nation and City of Durant welcomed the opening of a new Emergency Response Complex on Enterprise Boulevard, filling a great need in the fast-growing Durant area. A May 12 ribboncutting was held in front of the 7,800-sq-ft. facility, which currently houses two fire trucks, an ambulance and the city’s HAZMAT truck.

“The \$1.6 million project is funded 50 percent by a HUD Indian Community Development Block Grant and the other half by the Choctaw Nation,” said Assistant Chief Gary Batton. The City of Durant is in charge of operations and maintenance. Six firefighters are assigned to the complex.



NOTES TO THE NATION



Battiest basketball players perform in pre-game show

PIP (Players In Progress) is a group specializing in basketball skills, drills and tricks. Kids K-6 participate. PIP is a national organization that encourages an early interest in basketball and sports, development of ball handling skills, and stimulates self-discipline and self-confidence. PIP players perform at half-time of the girls high school home games. However, we recently had an opportunity to perform the opening act of

the Harlem Globetrotters when they visited Texarkana, Texas. Our kids were so excited! It was an awesome experience for them.

We would like to thank Councilman Mike Amos for being a sponsor and making this an unforgettable experience for our kids.

Players that attended the game are Cierra Axton, Elijah Axton, Blayne Hardaway, Araldo Hernandez, Enchil Tonihka, Bronson Brown, Colton

Cusher, Hannah Hamilton, Marrison Johnson, Kasi Jo Noah, Juliann Blake, Drew Hardaway, Lizzie Morris, Tanner Royal, Maggie Smith, Kolt Capps, Tori Harder, Cody Johnson, Cutter Morris, Joshua Smith, Brandon Stoval, Deedra Tonihka, Emilie Watts, Christian McGrath, Corby McGrath, Vaden Hodge, Shaley Axton, Ethan Baker, Kace McDonald and Angelina Armenta.

Candie Smith

Mecom earns bachelor's degree in Fire Science

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Career Development Program for helping me earn a Bachelor's of Science degree in Fire Science. I have been in the fire service since 1992 and I am currently a Fire Captain assigned to a ladder company.

Upper level education in the fire service is becoming paramount to earn officer level positions. The fire service of today is a professional organization, which is now demanding college-level education so men and women can lead their departments into the future.

My career in the fire service will benefit from this magnifi-



cent achievement. My degree will also assist me to earn an officers commission in the U.S. Navy Reserves where I am currently a Hospital Corpsman Second Class (E-5) serv-

ing with the Seabees. On behalf of the Mecom family, we would like to say thank you.

Rick Mecom

Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

We would like to thank the people of the Choctaw Nation who donated to the fundraiser for our family and all the hard work from the Choctaw Nation Food Distribution Department. Lisa and the girls, we miss you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Harold Roberson and family

Looking for information

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am looking for anyone who might possibly have any information on the history of my grandfather. The only thing I know of him is that he was either full-blood or half Choctaw Indian from Oklahoma. The name I know is Senora Watt Williams and he was married to a lady from Oklahoma called Sara Richardson. They had three children Lula Pearl Williams Garrett, my mother, Jerome Williams and Frank Williams. They could possibly have connections from LeFlore County and/or Stigler. If you have any information on the background of Senora Watt Williams, please contact me at the following email address dccarp@kc.rr.com

Dorothy Carpenter

Congratulations on television commercials

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Congratulations on the educational Choctaw Nation television spots. They are a wonderful way to show the people of Oklahoma and the surrounding states what great people the Choctaws are. It also showcases the various programs and departments of the tribe.

Celia Scherman McAlester, Oklahoma

Thank you for support

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Rock Creek FFA and RCYS would like to give a big thank you to the Choctaw Nation for their support during the 2009 Bryan County Premium Sale.

Rock Creek FFA

Looking for heirs

Dear Choctaw Nation,

We are attempting to locate the heirs of Sillian Battiest Green, daughter of John Battiest, full-blood Choctaw, regarding a mineral interest in Latimer County, Oklahoma. Anyone with any information, please call Glinda or Anita or e-mail glindashroff@swbell.net.

**Revard Land and Title, LLC
P. O. Box 702294
Tulsa, OK 74170
(918) 495-3998**

Seeking information on great-grandfather

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am desperately in need of your assistance with researching my Choctaw heritage. I have very few details of my great-grandfather and grandmother. I was told that they possibly originated in the Tennessee or Kentucky area, then moved to Oklahoma. After several years my great-grandfather moved to Alabama. My great-grandfather's name was Pink Cloud Sanford and his daughter's, my grandmother, was Eloise Sanford who married Ellis Key. My father's name is William Cleve Key. If you have information, please contact me at chris.key@basf.com or call 813-758-2344.

**William Christopher "Chris" Key
31241 Kirkshire Court
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543**

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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® 2009

Thank you to host staff of TBAG conference

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thanks to all the staff of the Choctaw Nation, particularly the office of Tribal Historic Preservation, for the excellent To Bridge A Gap conference last month in Durant. The meetings flowed smoothly, the planning produced excellent results, and the food was great!

From a professional perspective, I think the Executive Session will have long-lasting benefits for both the Forest Service and for the tribal representatives who participated. Thanks, again, for all the photos from the conference. I have shared those with my colleagues, including those from our national office in Washington, D.C.

On a personal note, I was amazed at the variety of giveaways with the imprinted TBAG information. The name badge ended up being the perfect holder for my passport and ID on my recent visit to the Mediterranean! Keep up your good work.

**Tiajuana Cochnauer
Assistant Manager, Information and External Relations**

Thank you in our time of need

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to say thank you to the churches in Pickens, Idabel and Buffalo and the Choctaw Nation for the donations and prayers sent to us when we lost our granddaughter, Hannah Crowe. We are also thankful for the safe drive from Oregon to Oklahoma and a big thank you to our driver Linda Lowman and her son, Lyndon Lowman.

The loss of our granddaughter is painful even more because of the way she left us. She was a beautiful witness, her love of life and love of her children, Jaron, Alexis, Stephon and Roxy Kay.

Solomon and Esther Stewart

Looking for information

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am searching for stories about my great-grandmother, Minnie J. Robinson Con. I know she was the daughter of Fred and Salina Robinson and the granddaughter of the Rev. D.D. Durant. Her first two children were Jessie Tovingosn and William "Billy" Robinson. Her other children were Agnes, Edna, Mary E., Leona, John R., Edward, Emma, Larine and Joe.

I am interested in any information also about her first two children for an article I am writing. If you know anything that will help me, please e-mail weaverdreamcloud@yahoo.com. I have heard that William once worked for Sapulia Red and had lived in Oklahoma City around 1919.

Yakoke for your help.

Jacqueline Weaver

Grateful to Career Development Department

Dear Chief Pyle,

I am writing in regards to the Career Development Department. Let me express my sincere gratitude and thanks to the Choctaw Nation for this program. It not only improves the ability for our people to achieve new heights in education but it also helps define the future for our membership. I applied for assistance through this program and received a very rewarding experience. As always our great nation went above and beyond for its people. Their needs are met and once again proves that the Choctaw Nation truly cares about its people. Through this program, I was able to continue employment. I was also able to improve my quality of life. I am a retired deputy sheriff. I served 22 years and was a dedicated public servant to my county and its people. After my retirement was reached, I was in search of my next employment and without resources and assistance this would have been impossible to achieve. With this great program that the Choctaw Nation provides, my needs were met and my new career was achieved.

I was assisted by a career counselor that, in my opinion, has our people's concerns and futures at heart. I would also like to thank you for Becky Ley at Career Development. She worked tirelessly to help me achieve my new career. While I realize that programs like this sometimes are difficult to maintain, I also know firsthand that these programs are very important. Once again, thank you sir for this program. It is my sincere hope that it will continue. This program will help improve many lives of our nation.

**Dean Mills
Lebanon, Missouri**

Native American cowboy loves rodeos

To my people of the Choctaw Nation,

My name is Louis Stewart and I am 10 years old. I carry the name of one of my belated grandpas, Lewis Haiakinubbi of Idabel. My grandparents on my father's side are Solomon Stewart Sr. of Idabel and Esther Stewart of Warm Springs, Oregon; on my mother's side, Judy Manheimer of Shonto, Arizona.

I belong to Warm Springs, Navajo and Choctaw tribes. I would like to let the rest of my family in Oklahoma know who I am and my grandpa, Solomon Stewart Sr. I travel to lots of rodeos in Oregon and Washington with my family. I participate in some sanctioned rodeos, junior rodeos and local rodeos for fun. My participation has helped me to realize that I can do anything I want with the support of my family. I participate in junior bull riding, breakaway roping, goat tying and my favorite, wild colt race. I have also done endurance racing. My first endurance race I came in third and my second race I placed first. When not in rodeos I like to play basketball, ride bikes, fish and work at the family ranch. I also help my Dad and uncles to brand horses and cattle. I have been learning to break horses. This is something I was raised to do just like the rest of my family. I've been riding since I was 2 and one day I will be running this ranch. I am very proud of what I do and the support I get will help me, too.

I would like to hear from family. Please send letters to:

**Louis Stewart
P.O. Box 330
Warm Springs, OR 97761**

Student thankful for tuition assistance

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

I am writing to express my appreciation to the Higher Education Program for the recent scholarship I received for tuition assistance at the OU College of Law. This scholarship will help reduce the large financial burden of pursuing my dream of practicing law. I continue to be amazed at the generosity of the people of the Choctaw Nation, and their willingness to help students further their education.

I am truly honored to be a member of the Choctaw Nation and grateful for the opportunity this scholarship will provide me as I continue to pursue a degree in law from the University of Oklahoma.

Amy Dominick-Padgett

Thank you for helping with park clean-up

Dear Choctaw Nation,

A very big thanks goes out to everyone who has come out so far to make our park clean-up and tree planting events a big success.

At Antlers, we had between 40 and 50 come out to help us paint, clean flower beds and plant flowers and trees. The nearly 90 kids seemed to have a good time and the parks looked good when all was done.

At Wilburton, there were 25 in attendance and we appreciate everyone getting the holes dug and the trees planted there as well.

In Atoka, there were nearly 50 people there including the Atoka YAB and everyone did a great job scraping paint, painting and planting trees. The freshly painted fencing looked really good when it was all said and done.

In Calera, there were over 100 people in attendance. They dug holes, planted shrubs and trees and spread mulch. After they finished they enjoyed a hamburger cook-out

Hats off to all of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to come out and work with us! Thanks also to Chief Pyle, Councilman Coley, Councilman Austin, Councilman Dosh and Councilman Dillard for coming out, donating and working with us to make this a success.

**Going Green Committee and
Employee Teambuilding Committee**

Thank you to many helpful people

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I want to say how grateful and thankful I am to our Councilperson Charlotte Jackson, Charlene Grunstad and the Choctaw Nation Liheap Program that sent the Carl Marlow Construction workers out to shingle my house which was leaking. Forrest Wright and his crew did a good job and I am very thankful to them.

**Imogene Terrell
Kinta, Oklahoma**

Summer Youth helping tribal members

Choctaw Nation program is providing close to 1,300 jobs in 699 job sites

*From the Desk of
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

In today's economy, jobs are highly valued, especially among the younger generation. The Choctaw Nation is committed to offering employment opportunities – even to some people as young as 14. Nearly 1,300 jobs have been filled through the Choctaw Summer Youth Program that runs for five weeks during June and early July. The vast majority of the funding for this program is through tribal dollars earned at Choctaw Nation business ventures. This year, the Council allocated \$2 million to add to the \$676,000 granted by the federal government.

The summer jobs begin with an in-depth group orientation on "soft skills" such as being dependable, flexible and positive, and having a strong work ethic, good communication skills and being able to work as a team player. Then the youth disperse to the 699 job sites across the Choctaw Nation where they will spend their

summer weeks earning a paycheck of their very own. The jobs they have this year vary from stage directors at the Shakespearean Festival to helpers at veterinary clinics. Also in the mix are youth working on ranches, in salons, in health clinics, in clerical offices, in construction and even the Department of Transportation.

Counselors are on board who go to the work sites at least once a week to make sure everything is going well and pick up time sheets. The program pays 100 percent of the salary for the worker. Because of the generous funding of the Tribal Council, all of the applicants who met the deadline were placed in positions this year.

This program is great, not only because it provides a financial help to the youth and their family through a job, but also because it helps them find where their interests are for the future. The vision of the Choctaw Nation is "To achieve healthy, successful, productive, and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud Nation of Choctaws." The Summer Youth Program is a wonderful stepping stone to meet that vision.



Greatest resource is tribal people

*From the Desk of
Assistant Chief
Gary Batton*

The greatest resource of the Choctaw Nation is the people. We have tribal members in every single state and many foreign countries. The tribe has close to 8,000 employees who show their dedication to the Choctaw Nation through their job and their lives.

While the work responsibilities of our jobs as Chief and Assistant Chief involves a great deal of office work, research, strategic planning and formal meetings on the state and national level, Chief Pyle and I both look forward to the visits we make with tribal members and our staff at gath-



erings across the United States.

Recently, our Capitol Grounds at Tushka Homma were used by more than 1,000 tribal employees and their families who had a day of picnicking and games. Even Chief Pyle and I got dared into the dunking booth for a good cause – raising money for Relay for Life, one of the causes that the staff have dedicated this year's fundraising efforts

to benefit.

We always enjoy traveling to other states, such as California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and the many other places where tribal members live. There will be gatherings in July in Kansas and later in the year in some other states so that tribal members can have access to information about services and programs, as well as get their photo IDs.



Oklahoma honors Code Talkers

Nuchie Nashoba, granddaughter of original Code Talker Ben Carterby, Chief Greg Pyle, Deana Petty, State Representative Lisa Billy, Marvin Dahl, great-great-great-grandson of Ben Carterby, David Batton and Assistant Chief Gary Batton are pictured prior to the introduction of legislation that was unanimously approved by the Oklahoma State Legislature to honor the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I.



Smithsonian honors Code Talkers

The Choctaw and Comanche Nations were among tribes honored at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian recently in Washington, D.C. Tribal Leaders Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Chairman Wallace Coffey spoke to the huge crowd that had gathered at the reception, which included guests of honor Barney Old Coyote, Crow Code Talker, and Samuel Tso, Navajo Code Talker. Pyle and Coffey led teams through the halls of Congress to lobby for the passage of the Code Talker Recognition Act, which was signed into law October 15, 2008. This legislation honors all Native American Code Talkers with Congressional medals for their service and had the tremendous support of National Congress of American Indians.

What is our way back to God?

The month of May was a memorial month for America. It brought many memories of loved ones and friends of the past and present years.

My memories began with a gathering of our West Coast Choctaws in Bakersfield, California, continuing with the honoring of our forefathers with a three-and-a-half-mile "Trail of Tears" walk from Skullyville Cemetery through Spiro, Oklahoma.

This included the Intertribal meeting of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma in Norman, and the McCurtain County Fifth Sunday singing of the Choctaw hymns only.

We thank God that He was honored with personal testimonies, hymns and prayers in these gatherings.

Our forefathers had portions of the Bible, they had, in the Choctaw language, the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, the New Testament and their Choctaw Hymn Book. The preachers preached on conversion, on what had converted their life.

They preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Good News of Salvation, or Conversion (I Corinthians 15:1-4).

What is conversion? The Bible teaches that God is a Holy God and He is a Righteous God. He hates sin. Sin separates. Sin brings the wrath of God upon the human soul.

A man separated from God cannot and will not find God until he finds the way back to God.

Jesus Christ made the way back to God by His death on the cross. He purchased man's redemption by the shedding of His blood. His death and resurrection completed God's Plan of Salvation.

You cannot think your way back to God. You cannot worship your way to God because man is a spiritual rebel. You cannot moralize your way back to God because you are spiritually dead in sin.

Now when we think on these things, these questions come to us: What shall we do? Where shall we begin? What is our way back to God?

There is only one way back to God and that is by the way of the cross. Jesus said each of us must accept His Plan of Salvation personally. He said in Matthew 18:3:

"... Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus demanded a conversion. This is how to begin! This is your way back to God.

There are many people who confuse conversion with the keeping of the law. The law of Moses is set forth in the Bible and the purpose of the law is made clear.

The law has given a revelation of man's unrighteousness, we read in Romans 3:20:

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight ..."

It is impossible to be converted by the keeping of the law. We read the rest of Romans 3:20:

"... for by the law is the

Chaplain's Corner



**Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain**

brilliant flash that we call a crisis conversion.

There are conversions that come after a long period of conviction of their need of the Plan of Salvation. This leads to the acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Savior and in the yielding of his or her life to Him.

Repentance and faith are involved in conversion. Repentance is the starting point in conversion, the turning from the former life. Faith is turning to Jesus Christ, the objective point of conversion. Then, there is another point of conversion, the new birth – we are born again or we are regenerated.

Now, in order to get to heaven, Jesus said in Matthew 18:3: "... Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

True conversion will involve the mind, the affection, and the will. There are people who believe the Bible. They believe all about Jesus, but they have never been really converted to Him.

Jesus demands a change in the way you live – and if your life does not conform to your experience, then you have every reason to doubt your experience. Your devotion to Him will know no bounds. Your love for Him cannot be described.

In conversion, the Holy Spirit makes you realize that you are a sinner. He directs your faith to Jesus Christ who died in your place. Will you trust Him as your Savior?

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

knowledge of sin."

The law is like a mirror. We see ourselves as sinners, and the law condemns but does not convert. It points the finger but does not offer mercy. There is no life in the law. There is only death.

There are those who say that their religion is the Sermon on the Mount but it is impossible to live up to the Sermon on the Mount. Why? We read in Romans 3:23:

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Examine or look into your own heart honestly before you say a religious conversion is all right for some but not for you.

The word "conversion" means to turn around. To change one's mind. In the realm of Christianity it has been explained as: To repent. To be regenerated.

Conversion can take different forms. It may follow a crisis in a person's life. Conversion can be sudden. Not all conversions come as a sudden

Council holds May session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met May 9 in Regular Session at Tushka Homma.

New business addressed included a letter appointing Judy Ogle to the Election Board. Her term runs from May 2009 through December 31, 2011.

Construction was approved for expansion of gaming facilities at Grant, Atoka, Wilburton and Poteau Travel Plazas to meet the demand of the customers. Cost of construction will be split evenly by Gaming and Travel Plaza.

Approval was also granted for:

- Two oil and gas leases, one awarded to Westphal Oil & Gas Inc. and one in favor of Antero Resources Corp.
- A fiber optic cable easement to Cherokee Telephone Co.
- A natural gas distribution pipeline easement to Oklahoma Natural Gas.
- Transfer of property in Coal County from CM/SE to Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
- Modification of the 20-year Long Range Transportation Plan.
- Grant applications for continuation of the tribe's Injury

Prevention Program, Adolescent Family Life Program and the Children and Family Services Title IV-B Program.

• Recognition of tribal officials to conduct business with the Office of Trust Funds Management.

• The FY 2009 Plan for Community Services Block Grant Recovery Act (ARRA) Funds.

• Amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation of Choctaw Manufacturing Development Corporation.

Labor Day Festival

Gospel Singing

Please call
July 6-10 only
to reserve your spot for
the festival's Sunday
Gospel Singing.
You may call 1-800-
522-6170, ext. 2265,
2469 or 2336.

Head Start honors Bennington 'Good Guy'



The Choctaw Nation Head Start fatherhood program known as "The Good Guys" held a drawing on May 18 to award gifts of appreciation to several men who have been a positive influence in the life of a Head Start student this year. The names of all males who participated at Head Start this year were put into a bag and drawn to determine the winners.

This year's winner of the grand prize is John Bennett of Bennington. Mr. Bennett has won a Black & Decker cordless grill for his willingness to attend The Good Guys meetings and monthly parent meetings and for being a positive influence in the life of his great-granddaughter, Emma. John and his wife, Betty, both in their late 60s, have raised Emma from the time she was 8 months old.

"Emma is the reason that we get up every morning," John said. "She is everything to us." When he was presented with the grill, he smiled and said, "I was going to have to go buy one of these this weekend. The battery on my old one went bad."

Head Start Good Guys may be fathers, stepfathers, big brothers, uncles, grandfathers, or like John Bennett, great-grandfathers. Head Start wants the person who fills the position as the positive role model in the life of a child to participate in the program. Having a male role model is important to all children. Unfortunately, some children don't have a male presence in their home.

You can be a positive male role model for a child and we would love for you to be a part of The Good Guys program at your local Choctaw Nation Head Start center.

For more information you may contact the center supervisor at your local Head Start or call 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2353, and ask for Brenda Ivie.



Five generations of the Ashalintubbi family

Ashalintubbi family members include Kimberly Bean, Dennis Ashalintubbi, Mildred Ashalintubbi holding baby Mackenzie Lynn Matthews, Ferris Ashalintubbi and D'Anna Ashalintubbi.

NURSERY NEWS

Mackenzie Lynn Matthews

Mackenzie Lynn Matthews, born February 10, 2009, is the newest addition to the Ashalintubbi family. She is the daughter of Kimberly Bean and granddaughter of D'Anna Ashalintubbi of Forney, Texas. Mackenzie is the great-grandchild of Brenda Ashalintubbi and the late David Wayne Ashalintubbi of Idabel. Her great-great-grandparents are the late Aline James of Talihina and the late Marland Ashalintubbi of Eagletown. She is also the great-great-niece of Mildred Ashalintubbi who currently resides in Eagletown.



Tey' Auna Samaya Carter-Flournoy

Tey' Auna Samaya Carter-Flournoy was born September 11, 2008. She is the daughter of Crystal Carter and Milton Flournoy Jr., the granddaughter of Cynthia Wilson and Milton Flournoy Sr., the great-granddaughter of Pauline Wilson, the great-great-granddaughter of Ms. Caroline Thompson of Paris, Texas. Tey' Auna, also known as Tee-Tee, weighed in at 8 pounds 20 ounces and measured 19 inches. She is blessed to have a host of family members who have welcomed her into their lives and hearts.



Celestial Skye Ferguson

Celestial Skye Ferguson was born February 24, 2009, in Meridian, Mississippi, weighing 7 pounds 10 ounces and measuring 21 inches. Proud parents are Missouri Ferguson of Pearl River, Mississippi, and Zach Maxwell of Hugo. Baby Celestial is welcomed to the world by seven siblings. Her Chahta name will be Hiahni Aluma, meaning "love's hidden place."



Aubrey LeAnn O'Dell

Jeff and Carissa O'Dell of Ada are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Aubrey LeAnn O'Dell. She was born March 3, 2009, at Valley View Hospital in Ada. She weighed 10 pounds 6 ounces and measured 20.5 inches. Her grandparents are Robert and Rowena Beach of Muskogee and Larry and Laura O'Dell of Caney, Kansas. Her maternal great-grandmother is the late Narcissa Wilson. She was welcomed home by her parents and her sister, Aris.



Isaiah Allen Moore

Isaiah Allen Moore was born March 8, 2009, weighing 7 pounds 8 ounces and was 20 inches long. He is the son of Robin Graves and Eddie Moore Jr. of Caddo.



Zane Scott Kepo Isht Hanali Hernandez

Zane Scott Kepo Isht Hanali Hernandez was born at 9:12 p.m. April 25, 2009, in Amarillo, Texas. He weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 inches long. Proud parents are Bryan and Carrie Hernandez of Amarillo. His grandparents are Kay Polk Julian of Midland, Texas, Jr. Hernandez of Borger, Texas, and Cordy and Jerry Partin of Amarillo. Zane's great-grandfather is the late Solomon "Dick" Polk of Bennington. His great-grandmother is Gail Griller of Lubbock, Texas. Zane's great-great-grandfather was the late Willis Polk of Bennington and his great-great-grandmother was Annie Eva Carney Polk Roberts of Bennington. Zane's great-great-great-grandparents were the late Cephus Kepo and Mary Polk, original enrollees. Zane was named after his great-great-great-grandfather, Cephus Kepo. "Kepo Isht Hanali," Zane is the sixth generation.



It's time for fruits and vegetables at 6 months

At 6 months, start serving fruits and vegetables – strained or pureed. Then advance slowly to a lumpier consistency. Six- to 8-month-olds still rely mostly on breastmilk or formula to grow and develop. At this age, breastfed babies usually nurse six or more times a day. Formula-fed babies drink about 27 to 32 ounces a day. Food is quickly becoming your baby's number one interest. They watch you eat. Their eyes follow your spoon or fork from plate to mouth and they reach out for a cup or a spoon. They use their fingers now to pick up objects. These are all signs that they may be ready for thicker foods like fruits and vegetables.

The following questions and answers may help you learn more about when and how to introduce fruits and vegetables to your baby.

My baby enjoys cereal now. When should I introduce fruits and vegetables?

Allow time for your baby to enjoy the taste and texture of cereal for a few weeks before introducing any other foods.

Why start with vegetables instead of fruit?

People are born with a preference for sweet tastes. Offering vegetables first encourages babies to try other flavors and not to expect all foods to taste sweet.

How can I get my baby to eat vegetables?

You are starting with a clean slate. Your actions now may trigger a lifelong love of vegetables. Offer your baby a taste of a strained or pureed vegetable. If they seem to enjoy it over the course of three days, offer a different one on the fourth day. If on the other hand, they reject the vegetable, offer another favorite vegetable

WIC

that day. The next day, offer another small taste of the same vegetable. Continue in the same way for at least 10 days. It takes time for some babies to learn to love vegetables – but that love starts now.

Can my baby have the same vegetables our family eats?

Your baby needs pureed or strained vegetables for the first few months but can gradually advance to lumpier textures. As your baby approaches their first birthday mash a small portion of the family's vegetables well with a fork and offer it to them on their high-chair tray.

What about fruit juice? Isn't that the same as fruit?

No. Fruit, complete with fiber and texture, is a far better choice than juice alone.

How will I know when my baby is full?

By now you're familiar with your baby's cry when they are tired, hungry or angry. You will soon know their signs of fullness. Look for the following signals:

Turning away from food, sitting back, or pushing food away. Baby may refuse to open its mouth. Perhaps they will simply slow down their eating. When you notice they are full, respect what they are telling you and follow their cues. "Just one more bite" is not necessary. Respecting a baby's feeding cues while they are young can help them naturally avoid overeating as they get older.

What vegetables and fruits tend to be baby favorites?

Babies enjoy mild-flavored vegetables like avocado, squash, sweet potatoes, carrots, spinach and peas. Applesauce, pears, bananas and prunes tend to be the most popular fruit.

Courtesy of Mass. WIC

It's important to care for baby's gums, teeth

By Ashley Norris, AFL Technician

It's important to care for your baby's gums and teeth. If you don't, baby's first teeth may decay or fall out too soon.

- Babies usually begin teething around 4-6 months.
- Bottom teeth usually come in before top teeth.
- Expect about four new teeth every four months.

Each baby reacts to teething differently, but your baby is probably getting a new tooth if he is:

- Fussier than usual.
- Drooling more than usual; this may cause a rash on his face.
- Rubbing his gums.
- Less interested in eating.
- Waking more often at night.

What can you do to help? Give him something firm or cool to chew on such as:

- A cold teething ring.
- Your clean finger.
- A teething biscuit, but only if your baby is at least 6 months old, sitting up and you are right with him. He could break off a

chunk and choke on it.

Use a special ointment (such as Orajel®) for baby's gums.

Rub his teeth and gums with a wet wash cloth each day.

Ask your doctor about giving him Tylenol to help relieve the pain or slight fever that sometimes come with teething.

Daily questions for your caregiver

When you return for your baby, make sure you ask:

- Did my baby have a good day?
- What did he eat or drink? How much?
- Did he nap? For how long?
- Did he have a bowel movement?
- Did he get upset?

Think to yourself:

- Is my baby happy here?
- Observe your child closely ...**
- Does he seem happy and alert?
- Is he clean and are his diapers fresh?
- Are there any unusual marks on his body?

Observe how the caregiver interacts with your baby ...

- Does she seem calm and happy? Or is she tense and irritable?

Choctaw Nation AFL Project

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

Sustaining our traditions, our people, our earth



Wash your clothes in cold water. By using cold water instead of warm, the average household can avoid emitting 1,281 pounds of carbon dioxide annually and save on energy bills.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays July 6-27, except for:

- July 8: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed).
- July 15: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed).
- Closed July 1-3 and July 28-31 for inventory.

DURANT

Market open weekdays July 6-27, except for:

- Closed July 1-3 and July 28-31 for inventory.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays July 7-27, except for:

- July 6: Stigler 9 a.m.-12 noon.
- Closed July 1-3 and July 28-31 for inventory.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays July 6-27, except for:

- Closed July 1-3 and July 28-31 for inventory.

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

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

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

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

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Soldiers and brothers celebrate birthdays

Dan Phillips, left, turned 21 on April 18. Dan is stationed at Fort Hood after recently returning from Iraq on January 15. He passed his Sergeant's Board on April 21. Sgt. Phillips made a perfect score on his test. He is the only Native American in his unit. Welcome home!



Earl "Hoot" Phillips also turned 22 years old on April 18. He is now in Iraq. You can write Hoot at DC3 Phillips, Earl, II Earl.V., NPDB Ramadi-I, 6001, Camp TAJI, APO AE 09378. Be safe and have a safe return home, Hoot.

Both are sons of Jan and Nancy Harkins of Heavener and the late W.H. and Ella Perkins.

Morris celebrates 90th birthday

Councilman James Frazier and all other Crowder Choctaw Seniors would like to wish Lloyd Morris a happy 90th birthday. His birthday was on May 5. He was honored with a birthday cake, cards and gifts. We would like to take the time to thank Lloyd's family for always bringing him to be with us. Lloyd is an active member of the District #12 Crowder Choctaw Seniors and we always enjoy all the prayers and all the hugs that he has to give.



Happy 81st birthday

We would like to wish Pauline Wesley a happy 81st birthday. Her birthday was May 31. From your family, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



68 years young!!

Cephus John was born near Golden on April 18, 1941, and he wants everyone to know "he feels 68 years young." He would also like to say "Halito" to his Chahta friends in Idabel, Broken Bow and Goodland Indian Methodist Church. Take care and God bless.



Happy birthday

Deborah Evans celebrated her birthday on May 29. She is the great-great-great granddaughter of Jincey Bean, a Trail of Tears walker. Happy birthday Deb.



Happy 10th birthday

Cheyenne celebrated her birthday on May 2. She is 10 years old. She is in the fourth grade and on the honor roll. She loves playing ball. Cheyenne is the daughter of Kim and Vince Fulk of Purcell. Happy birthday!



Happy 15th birthday

Here's wishing a happy 15th birthday to a very wonderful young lady, Elisabeth Wheeler, on April 26. May God bestow many blessings on you. Birthday wishes from great-aunt Sophia and cousin Richard.



Happy birthday!!

Happy birthday to Richard A. Gomez on his 35th year celebrated on July 7. A mother could not have a more caring and loving son. God bless. From Mom.



Happy 11th birthday!!

We would like to wish our grandson, Chad D Moore, a happy 11th birthday on May 3. We love you and miss you. His parents are Steve and Karianne Moore of Ashburn, Virginia. Chad's grandparents are Francis and Lucretia Brown of Oklahoma City, Ron Griswold of New Jersey and Alish of Florida. He also has a brother of the home, Alex. His cousins in Oklahoma, Craig, Dylan and Elizabeth, would also like to wish him a happy birthday.



Happy birthday Ethan

Ethan Edward Beddo celebrated his seventh birthday on May 28. He really enjoys video games and riding his Paw-Paw's four-wheeler. Proud parents are Israel and Krista Beddo of Boswell. Ethan is also a blessing from God. His proud grandparents are Pamela Beddo of Boswell and Jeff and Linette Hinton of Talihina. Happy birthday!



Happy birthday

Ronnie Smith celebrated his 11th birthday on April 8. He enjoys playing computer games, fishing and reading books. Danielle R. Smith celebrated her 15th birthday on May 20. She enjoys reading books, playing computer games and fishing. Birthday wishes from Mom, Dad and your grandparents from McAlester.



Happy 81st birthday

At the age of 81, Junior David Billy still has a beautiful garden every year. He celebrated his birthday on May 21. We want you to know we are very proud of you and wishing you a happy birthday - from your children.



Look who's 7!

Kobe Anderson will celebrate his seventh birthday on July 30. Happy birthday from Dad, PaPa and Nana, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters and cousins.



Happy eighth birthday

Shawn and Mandi Fischer of Durant would like to wish their daughter, Kiercy Leighan, a happy eighth birthday on May 22. Kiercy is a second grade student at Northwest Heights Elementary where she is in the gifted and talented program and where she enjoys playing with her friends. We are proud of Kiercy and all her achievements. Happy birthday.



Happy birthday Mom

Happy birthday to Paula Janelle of Dallas, Texas. She turned another year younger on March 10. Happy birthday from your loving husband, Ruben Sr., and from your daughter and son, Meagan and Ruben Jr.



Happy fourth birthday

Cadence Marisue Alexander celebrated her fourth birthday on May 8. She likes to play with her Nintendo DS and other small children in her extended family. She likes Dora and Diego. Her parents are Crystal and Josh Alexander of Talihina. Cadence is a blessing from God. Her proud grandparents are Pamela Beddo of Boswell and Teresa and Danny Alexander of McAlester and Julie and Kent Holt of Talihina and Bunnye and Ron Hampton of Boswell. Happy birthday!



Happy birthday to family

John Peasha would like to wish a happy birthday to his brother, Truman Kenieutubbe, in the month of May.

John would also like to wish his son, Gabriel Peasha, a happy birthday. Gabriel turns two on June 22. Happy birthday to you both.



18 - Finally!

A very happy birthday to my happy-go-lucky grandson, Kenneth P. D. Anderson, on July 8. Thank you for being the kind of soul that has never met a stranger. From Grams.



Happy first birthday

Kolin Jesse Lee Morris turned one year old on March 20. He is the son of Zac and Lesa Morris of Jackson, California.



Happy 14th birthday

Aire Sequoyah Thorne turned 14 years old on April 14. While at Moore Central Junior High School, Aire was on the school newspaper and yearbook staff. Her parents, sisters and grandparents Gene and LaHoma Crauthers wish her a very happy birthday. Aire is the great-granddaughter of the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



Happy fourth birthday

Marcel Ray Lewis turned 4 years old on March 13. He is the son of Jennifer Lewis. His grandparents are Arnold Lewis of Durant, Travis Ward and Carol Rasha, both of Broken Bow. Happy birthday from the family.



Happy 44th birthday

Canyon Taylor of Hugo would like to say happy birthday to his daddy, Dwayne Taylor of Hugo. Dwayne turned 44 on June 20.

Happy second birthday

Joe'al Cunningham, son of Cody and Stacy Cunningham, will celebrate his second birthday on June 7. His grandparents are Joe and Angelyn Cunningham of Oklahoma and Maxine Schreiner of Oregon. Joe'al and his big sister, Caylee, are descendants of three original enrollees, Matilda LeFlore Manning, Angie Manning Fox and Ethel Fox.

Congratulations

Katherine Ann Franks, a 2009 graduate of Ardmore High School, will be attending Oklahoma State University this fall.

Katherine's mother is Patricia Johnson Lorne of Ardmore and her grandparents are Eulus and Evelyn Johnson of McAlester. We are very proud of you.



Joseph turns 8

Joseph Randall Fulton turned 8 years old May 15. The son of Randall and Michele Fulton, Joseph lives in Monterey, California. Also wishing him a happy birthday are his grandmother, Barbara Fulton; uncles, Jack, Mike and Dana; his Aunt Lisa, and brother, Bob Fulton, all of Hugo.



Happy 90th birthday

Elsie Mae Sam Brantley of Nelson turned 90 on March 10. A party was held March 7 at the home of grandson and granddaughter-in-law Chad and Nicole Wood in Frisco, Texas. Attendees included son, Huey Precise and daughter, Betty Bratcher and their families, as well as many friends and extended family. A lavish barbecue buffet was served. Congratulations!



Wedding announced

Bill and Dezirai Witt and Suzette Wilson and Rob Lanford have the honor of announcing the marriage of their daughter, Alisha Ann Witt, to Shawn Ryan Valentine, son of Keven and Tracy Turner. They married on May 23 at the Saginaw Baptist Church in Saginaw, Missouri.



60th anniversary

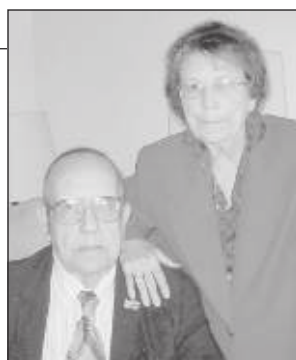
Melford Eugene "Gene" Winfrey, son of a Choctaw original enrollee, and Margaret Thompson Winfrey celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary June 10 at the home of their son, Michael, in Choctaw, Oklahoma, with family and friends.

Gene and Margaret met in February 1948 at a basketball game in Noble where she attended high school. He had recently returned from serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific Theater during World War II. They were married June 10, 1949, in Lexington and made their home in Wichita, Kansas, for seven years. Then returned to Oklahoma and was employed at Tinker Air Force Base until retirement.

They have one son, Michael Winfrey, and wife Melody. Michael owns and operates a business in Choctaw.

A daughter, Janice and husband Calvin Kester own and operate a small cattle and horse ranch at Ocarche, Oklahoma. Janice participates in riding competitions, barrel racing, etc.

Granddaughter Jennifer and husband Joseph Carter; grandsons, Matthew Winfrey, Mark Milburn and wife Melissa; Paul Milburn and wife Richelle; great-granddaughter, Emily Dannielle, and great-grandson, Mason Dade.



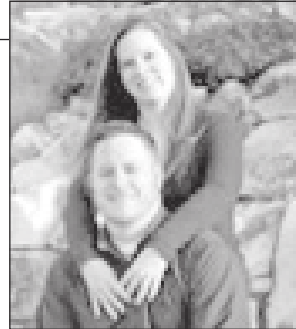
Engagement announced

Alexandra Nicole Minter of Lytle, Texas, and Daniel Richard Beaver, Jr. of Mesquite, Texas, are engaged to be married on October 17, 2009.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Michael and Angela Huffman Minter of San Antonio. She is the granddaughter of Leonard and Audeen Huffman; Oteka and Nick Beasley; and the late Joseph Minter, all of Madill. Her great-grandparents were Daisy Inez Tillman and William Huffman, Georgia and Lonnie Graves, Charles and Hazel LeFlore, and Richard and Sara Livengood.

The prospective groom is the son of Danny and Brenda Tonubbee Beaver of Mesquite. He is the grandson of Bob and Barbara Johnson Shelton of Wills Point, Texas; Frances Burton of Mesquite; and the late Francis Murphy Tonubbee of Dallas. His great-grandparents were Albert and Mary Lee Johnson of Durant; Murphy and Lillian Harrington Tonubbee of Bennington; and Hubert and Rosa Mae Beaver of Hunt, Texas.

The couple met while attending college at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas. They plan to move to the Dallas/Fort Worth area to start their life together.



Class of 2009

Congratulations to Miles McKinley Reich who graduated May 17 with the Wright City Class of 2009.



Happy 20th birthday

Happy birthday to Cody Lynn Peters who will turn 20 on June 25. Cody's parents are Becky Peters of Hugo and Cary Peters of Broken Bow. Cody is currently in his third year at Nova State University in Florida. He is such a wonderful young man and has grown up so fast. We are very proud of him. Birthday wishes from his mom and brother Canyon.



She's now 23

Happy birthday to Amber Nichole Hager. She turned 23 on June 17. Amber is the mother of Drake Logan who is 3 years old and they live in Fort Towson. We are very proud of all you have accomplished in life. Amber's mother, Becky Peters, and brother Canyon are of Hugo and her grandmother is Betty Shawhart of Fort Towson.



Look who's three

Wishing a happy third birthday to Cayden Lee Hostletter on June 3. Cayden's parents are Tahasha Steed and Ricky Hostletter, both of Hugo. His grandparents are Mary and Marc Payne of Powderly, Texas, and Becky Peters and Dwayne Taylor of Hugo.

Cayden is a very precious part of our life. Happy birthday from Grams and Uncle Canyon.



Happy birthday Virginia

Virginia McKay Beddo celebrated her 10th birthday on March 20. She enjoys horseback riding, baseball and reading. Her proud parents are Israel and Krista Beddo of Boswell. Virginia is a blessing from God. Her proud grandparents are Pamela Beddo of Boswell and Jeff and Linette Hinton of Talihina.





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

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

The awards are granted according to the students' educational progress:

- Straight A's - \$25
- A's and B's - \$10
- Perfect Attendance- \$25

To be eligible for this program a student must:

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

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

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



Enrique Guerrero, Shelby Tushka, Cyrus Battiest, Samantha Lopez, Kedale Willie and Wilmer Guerrero.

The Choctaw Nation is recognizing several Jones Academy students for their academic achievements during the fall semester of 2008. The STAR Education Incentive Program rewarded the students for academic performance and school attendance during the fall semester of 2008. These students were given a Wal-Mart gift card and a certificate of recognition from Chief Greg Pyle and Tribal Council Member Bob Pate.



Judy Picone, Alisha Picone and Billie Jo Nunn.

Two CNO student scholars take LEAD

More should check out this summer program

In 1979, executives from pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson, fresh from a recruiting trip, approached the University of Pennsylvania's prestigious Wharton School of Business with a proposition. In their recruiting they found a distressingly low number of minority students were pursuing an MBA (Master's of Business Administration) degree. The pharmaceutical execs told Wharton they'd help fund a summer program to expose diversity students to careers in business if Wharton would provide the academic experience for talented pre-college scholars. The program was launched at Wharton the following year, in 1980 - and has grown every year since.

Today the program is called LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) and has expanded greatly to other top universities. It has also grown beyond a business school program seeking diversity MBA's. Now, every summer, a growing number of participating schools select 30 students (from three times that number of applicants) for a summer institute lasting three or four weeks where diversity students learn the basics of a range of related subjects with instruction from senior faculty and corporate executives.

From its humble beginnings LEAD has grown to include 12 universities, 40 multinational corporations, an agency of the federal government, and a non-profit organization all working together.

To date, at least two CNO students, both enrolled in the Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP), have taken part in LEAD according to Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "More of our pre-college students should check out this opportunity," Chief Pyle says.

Trent Tolbert, now a sophomore at Dartmouth University in Hanover, New Hampshire, attended a LEAD summer program at Dartmouth's Tuck Business School between his junior and senior year. "It was a tremendous experience and a great program," says Tolbert. "We were taught by actual Tuck Business Professors. We traveled to Boston and New York to meet with many different businesses. It was a great hands-on learning experience and I'd encourage any interested Choctaw student to apply," he adds.

Christian McGowan is a 17-year-old home-schooled scholar who will be attending the Dartmouth Tuck Business School this summer. Christian has a wide-ranging art interest that includes design, painting and illustration. "I'm excited about the LEAD program," she says. "I hope to learn things that might help me start and run my own studio or gallery some day."

For more information about the LEAD program, CNO students should contact Jo McDaniel, Director of the Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program, 800-522-6170, ext. 2547; call LEAD at 215-753-2494 or visit the LEAD website at www.leadprogram.org.

Alysia Brooks wins OU Medical Humanities Scholarship

In the fourth grade scholar Alysia Brooks had a chance to work with children suffering from autism. She learned firsthand how personal human interaction can positively impact the lives of autistic kids. From that experience Alysia gained a clear idea of what she wanted to do with her life. She wanted to be a pediatrician working in the field of autism. Later she decided she also wanted to be a doctor highly aware of social traditions and customs of diverse peoples and cultures.

In April 2009, as a senior honors student at Durant High School, Alysia took a big step toward achieving both of her life goals. Alysia won a fully paid scholarship to a unique academic program from the University of Oklahoma that will launch her onto her chosen career path.

In a highly rigorous competition, among 250 applicants, Alysia Brooks was among five



students selected for the University of Oklahoma's Medical Humanities Scholars Program which includes admission to OU's Honors College.

"To say we are proud of Alysia's achievement is an understatement," Chief Greg Pyle says. "Alysia is an exceptionally gifted young person who is an example of what can be accomplished by setting high goals, being persistent, perusing opportunities, and taking advantage of support systems such as Choctaw Nation's Scholarship Advisement Program."

For Alysia admission to the Medical Humanities Scholars Program includes both a fully paid scholarship and admission to the OU Honors College plus guaranteed acceptance at the OU College of Medicine.

In the past year Alysia also visited - and was accepted at - Dartmouth University in Hanover, New Hampshire, and at George Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Alysia chose OU because the Medical Humanities Scholars Program provides an ideal opportunity for her life's goals.

Alysia has been enrolled in the Choctaw Nation's Scholarship Advisement Program since her junior year at Durant High School, though she says it was really Jo McDaniel, SAP's Program Director, who found her. "With Alysia's ACT scores and related experience and activities, I knew we had a very special student," says McDaniel. "She's the kind we want to roll up our sleeves and help as much as possible," she adds.

SAP helped Alysia make networking connections to Dartmouth University as well as

George Washington University. SAP also helped Alysia prepare for oral interviews for the hugely competitive OU Medical Humanities Program. SAP arranged contacts with the American Indian's Physician Association in Oklahoma City as well as networking with medical school students prior to her oral interviews. Of the program's 250 applicants, only 13 were selected for oral interviews. And from that group only five were selected for the program.

Persistence has been a big contributor to Alysia's success, a quality she evidently learned from her mom, Leah Brooks. "I took my first ACT test as a high school freshman," she says. "My Mom told me to keep taking it over and over until I got the score I needed. I took the test a total of six times. I started at 24 and ended up with a 34. As much as anything that's what got me into the OU Medical Humanities Program."

While Alysia's work with autistic children kindled her desire to become a doctor, it was more recent trips to Europe and China that inspired her to help people in other cultures. That combination makes the OU Medical Humanities Honors Program a near-perfect fit. "The program's purpose is to create well rounded doctors that are also knowledgeable in the humanities and use their knowledge of culture and background to better treat patients," she says.

Where does Alysia see herself after the long grind of college and medical school? "I see myself going overseas and doing a lot of community outreach programs in different countries."

"I want to do something in my life that gives me joy every day. And helping children definitely gives me joy."

Eligibility Criteria

Louie LeFlore/Grant Foreman Scholarship

Deadline: July 1

Eligible applicants must:

1. Be a member of one of the Five Civilized Tribes: Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw or Seminole
2. Be eligible for the federal financial aid programs: PELL, SEOG, college work/study or loans. Applicant must apply for financial aid and demonstrate financial need.
3. Be majoring in nursing (RN or BS); pre-health professions; or health professions area. No other majors will be considered.
4. Reside in Oklahoma and within the respective tribal service area at the time of this application.
5. Provide letter of acceptance into an accredited RN/BS nursing program; a pre-health professions program or health professions school such as University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma State University-College of Osteopathic Medicine, Tulsa, or Southwestern State University College of Pharmacy, Northeastern State University School of Optometry.

Please contact the Scholarship Advisement Program for an application:

scholarshipadvisement@choctawnation.com or 1-800-522-6170 and ask for Kasey Jackson

Choctaw Nation GED Classes

CHOCTAW COUNTY

Beginning date and time:

August 10, 2009

Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
219 N. Broadway, Hugo, Oklahoma

PITTSBURG COUNTY

Beginning date and time:

August 10, 2009

Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:30-4 p.m.
EOSC McAlester Campus
1802 E. College Ave., McAlester, Oklahoma

McCURTAIN COUNTY

Beginning date and time:

August 11, 2009

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

HASKELL COUNTY

Beginning date and time:

August 11, 2009

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

Choctaw Nation Distance Learning Technology GED Classes

Beginning August 17, 2009

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

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



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

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

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
J U L Y				1 Durant 10 am-2 pm	2	3 Holiday	4 Independence Day
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	14	15 McAlester 10 am-2 pm Stigler by appt only	16	17 Idabel 10 am-12 pm Broken Bow 1-3 p.m.	18
	19	20	21 Poteau 11:30 am-1 pm	22 Wright City by appt only Bethel by appt only	23	24 Antlers by appt only	25
	26	27 Crowder by appt only	28 Wilburton 10:30 am-2:00 pm	29 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	30	31	
	2009						



Members of Skullyville Post 4501 display their colors. The group of Choctaw veterans carried the flag during the commemorative Trail of Tears Walk.

the TRAIL of TEARS

SKULLYVILLE

MAY 16, 2009



The Choctaw Nation Color Guard leads the way as walkers leave Skullyville Cemetery and begin the 4-mile walk to the Spiro Center. The Walk, held on the third Saturday of May, attracts hundreds of participants who would like to honor the ancestors who endured the hardships of removal.



Chief Pyle is pictured with many members of the Sampson Moore family.



A Broken Bow group, all wearing bright turquoise T-shirts, wait to get in line for the walk. They are Carrie Louis, Viola Bohanan, Haskell Battiest, Priscilla Coleman, Lancy Wallace, Thomas Wilkinson, Mary Williams and Margaret Hernandez.



Assistant Gary Batton and grandson Jeffery are pictured with sisters Joyce Robison, Betty Flurry and Mary Ann Allen and grandson Walker.



Sisters Leona Faye Landis of New Haven, Indiana, and Barbara Lee Doty and husband of Paul "Red" Doty of Casa Grande, Arizona, travel to Oklahoma for the Walk.



Vernon Triplett and Chief Greg Pyle.



Shannon Mahoney and son Liam visit with Chief Pyle. They are the granddaughter and great-grandson of R.O. White.



R.O. White gives a copy of a photo montage of his sister, Lois Burton, to Councilperson Charlotte Jackson.



Sisters Kara, Jennifer and Kristie McGuire.



Alec Davis has completed every Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk hosted by the tribe. Alec is pictured with Linda Caldwell.



Jim Cox came up from Florida to make the trek, finishing just ahead of younger brother Delton.



Victor Locke and Chief Greg Pyle.



Topsy Williams, Chief Pyle and Viola Bohanan.



Ellen Cole of Durant and granddaughter Britton Barone enjoy a donut and a drink while waiting for the Trail of Tears Walk to start. Britton's parents are Janah and Jeremy Barone of Harts-horne.



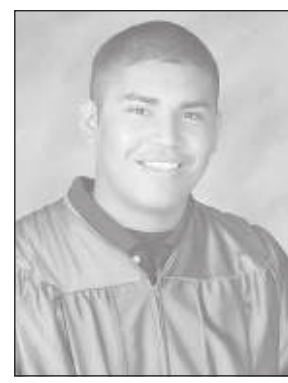
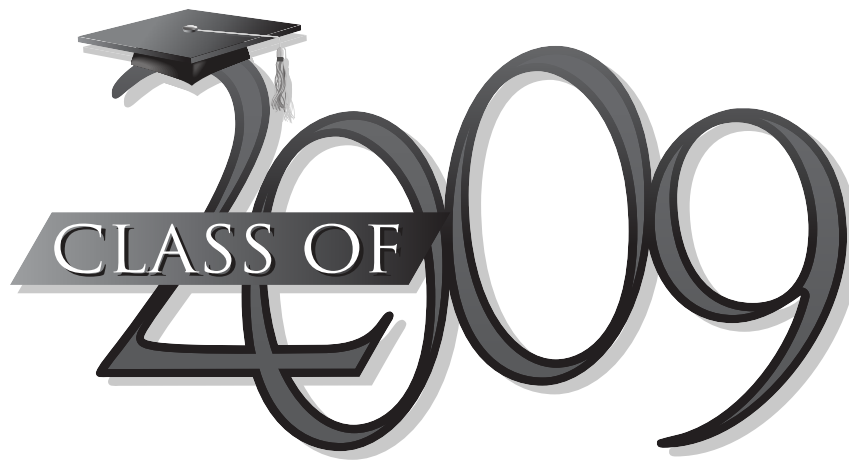
JONES ACADEMY



Bradley Johnathan Blaine



Darylene Brandi Blaine



Merlin Dean Buffalomeat



Gary Burriss Jr.



Melissa Elizabeth Canterbury



Lonsford Crook



Shelby Pauline Cruz



Ashton Rachele DiNardo



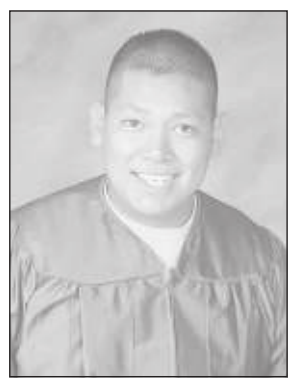
Roberta Loriann Dixon



Megan Duran



Ciera Morgan Golden



Jobie James Howell



Delaney Leyja



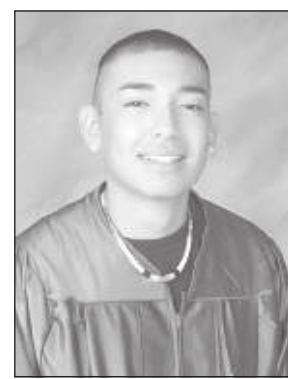
Clayton Troy Mathis



Alicia Nicole Moore



Sidney Gabriel Moore



Daylan Paul Ortiz



Judy Kay Picone



Stacey Salkey



Ashley Ann Smith



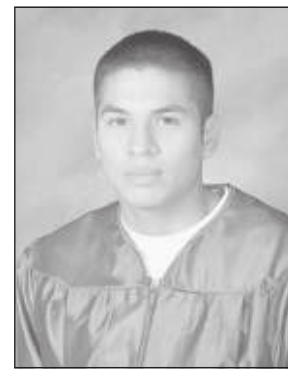
Mark Trujillo



April Washee



Cassandra Fae White



Maverick D. Williams



Jessica Yeahquo

Bradley Jonathan Blaine is the 18-year-old son of Monica and Darryl Blaine from Sacaton, Arizona. He is the grandson of Marlene Norris and Doris Morago. Bradley is a member of the Tohono O'odham Tribe. He has attended Hartshorne Public School for five years and is active in football, weightlifting and track. His honors include Letter H Award and 1st Team District 2A-6 Offense. After high school he plans to attend Haskell Indian Nation University in Lawrence, Kansas, to study Business and Computer Science.

Darylene Brandi Blaine is the 18-year-old daughter of Monica and Darryl "Andy" Blaine and is the granddaughter of Marlene Norris and Irving Pablo and Doris Morago and Johnny Blaine. Darylene is from Sacaton, Arizona, and is a member of the Tohono O'odham tribe. She has attended Hartshorne Public School for six years and is active in slow-pitch softball, fast-pitch softball, band, Color Guard, Gifted and Talented, Student Council and is the Varsity Basketball Manager. Her honors include an "Excellent" rating at Competition in Color Guard. Darylene has been accepted at Haskell Indian Nation University where she will major in Business Administration.

Merlin Dean Buffalomeat is the 18-year-old son of Rhonda Fixico of Seminole, Oklahoma, and Vincent Tilley. He is the grandson of Sally and Samuel Fixico. Merlin is a member of the Seminole Tribe of Oklahoma. He has attended Hartshorne Public School for two years and has been active in football. After high school he plans to attend Seminole State College for his basics.

Gary Burriss Jr., 19, is the son of Gary Burriss Sr. and the late Gladys Burriss. He is from Lawton and a member of the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma. Gary was a principle member of the Jones Academy Writers, the Jones Academy newspaper and journalism class. He was also active in the Learn and Serve Project, a community service program. Gary is scheduled to attend Talking Leaves Job Corps in Tahlequah in the fall.

Melissa Elizabeth Canterbury is the 18-year-old daughter of John and the late Michaelyn Canterbury. She is the granddaughter of Darlene and Larry Canterbury. She is from Mobile, Alabama, and a member of the Choctaw Nation. Melissa has attended Hartshorne Public School for five years and is active in basketball. Her honors include National Honor Society, Gifted and Talented, and the American Legion Citizenship Award. She has been accepted at the University of Southern Alabama in Mobile where she will attend classes this fall.

Lonsford Crook is the 19-year-old son of Marcella and Lonsford Crook and the grandson of Bucky and Jennetta Crook. Lonsford is from Balch Springs, Texas, and a member of the Choctaw Nation. He has attended Hartshorne High School for three years and participated in football and weightlifting. He was a member of FFA where he excelled in winning the 2009 Reserve Grand Champion at the Pittsburg County Livestock Show, the Wilburton Jackpot, and the Choctaw Nation Livestock Show in Durant. Lonsford is enrolled at Eastern Oklahoma State College where he will attend classes in the fall.

Shelby Pauline Cruz, 18, is the daughter of John and Angela Cruz of San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico. She is a member of the Ohkay Owingeh Tribe. Shelby is registered at Northern New Mexico College. Upon finishing her studies at NNMC, she plans to transfer to the University of New Mexico where she will pursue a degree in Criminal Justice.

Ashton Rachele DiNardo is the daughter of Danielle DiNardo and Reggie Chuckluck and is the granddaughter of Jean and Ray DiNardo and Pauline and the late Richard Chuckluck. Rachele is from Wilburton and a member of the Choctaw Nation. She has

attended Hartshorne High School for three years and is active in cheerleading, 4-H and track. After high school, Rachele plans to attend East Central University and pursue a degree in pharmacy or X-ray technology.

Roberta Loriann Dixon is the 18-year-old daughter of the late Robert and Ruthann Dixon and is the granddaughter of Winifred and the late Doyle Dixon. Roberta is from Sacaton, Arizona, and a member of the Gila River Indian Community. She has attended Hartshorne Public School for eight years and is active in Honor Choir, Yearbook, and is the Varsity Basketball Manager. Roberta's honors include Yearbook Editor and the Letter H Awards for Choir and Yearbook. After high school she plans to attend Central Arizona College to get her basics and then transfer to the University of Arizona.

Megan Duran is the 18 year-old daughter of Tina Gasper and the granddaughter of Shirley Duran. She is from Zuni, New Mexico, and is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Tesuque Tribe. Megan has attended Hartshorne High School for two years. After high school, Megan plans to go to the University of New Mexico Zuni Campus and become a radiologist.

Ciera Morgan Golden is the 18-year-old daughter of Steve Golden and Theresa Killnight. She is from Sparks, Oklahoma, and is a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Ciera has attended Hartshorne High School for two years and has been active in the girls' varsity basketball and track. She made the All-Tournament Team at the Crowder Invitation, the All-Black Diamond Conference, and was a member of the 2009 District Championship team. Ciera was also selected as the 2009 Basketball Homecoming Queen. After high school she plans to attend college in Oklahoma.

Jobie James Howell is the 18-year-old son of Gordon Howell and Shelly Brown. He is from Lukachukai, Arizona, and is a member of the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. Jobie has attended Hartshorne Public School for three years. He has expressed an interest in becoming a welder after graduating from high school.

Delaney Leyja, 17, is the daughter of Ann Leyja of Frederick. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation. She has attended Hartshorne Public School for two years. Delaney was the student chairperson for the Learn and Serve Project at Jones Academy. She was instrumental in providing leadership for the community service program. Delaney is scheduled to attend classes at the Great Plains Technology Center in Frederick this fall.

Clayton Troy Mathis is the 18-year-old son of Randall Mathis and Renee Adams and the grandson of Daniel and Rotha Adams and Linda Watson. Clayton is from Wilburton and an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He has attended Hartshorne Public School for six years. Clayton has registered to attend classes at Eastern Oklahoma State College in August of 2009.

Alicia Nicole Moore, 18, is the daughter of Tina Moore of Norman. She is a member of the Seminole Tribe of Oklahoma. Alicia has attended the Hartshorne Public Schools for 11 years. After graduation, Alicia plans on attending Talking Leaves Job Corps in Tahlequah.

Sidney Gabriel Moore is the 19-year-old son of Marshall and the late Ramona Moore. He is from Philadelphia, Mississippi, and a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Sidney has attended Hartshorne High School for three years and was active in varsity football for the 2009 season. He is enrolled at Eastern Oklahoma State College for the fall semester. Sidney plans to become a physical education coach.

Daylan Paul Ortiz is the 17-year-old son of Joseph Ortiz and Dana Martinez of San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico. He is a member of the Ohkay Owingeh Tribe. After graduation, Daylan will attend classes in the fall at Northern New Mexico College in Espanola, New Mexico.

Judy Kay Picone is the 17-year-old daughter of Sherry and Vincent Picone and the granddaughter of Wayne and Nora Scott and Judy and Alex Picone. She is from Wilburton and a member of the Choctaw Nation. Judy has attended Hartshorne Public School for six years and is the Basketball Manager, the Softball Manager, and is a member of the Honor Choir. Her honors include Oklahoma Honor Society, English III Award, and the Art Award. After high school she plans to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University then transfer to the University of Central Oklahoma to major in English Education.

Stacey Salkey, 18, is the daughter of Weldon and Darlene Salkey. She is from Bapchule, Arizona, and an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community. She has attended Hartshorne Public School for six years and is involved in Yearbook. Stacey's future plans include attending MESA Community College and then transferring to Arizona State University.

Ashley Ann Smith is the 18-year-old daughter of Donald and Denise Smith. Ashley is from Cooper, Texas, and a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She has attended Hartshorne High School for four years and is active in Yearbook and is a member of the Academic Team. After graduation she plans to attend Paris Junior College in Paris, Texas, and then transfer to the University of Central Oklahoma to major in Forensic Science.

Mark Trujillo is the 18-year-old son of Marvin Trujillo and Lisa OldPerson of San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico. He is a member of the Ohkay Owingeh Tribe. Mark is registered at Northern New Mexico College and plans to attend classes in the fall.

April Washee, age 18, is the daughter of Lisa Willis of El Reno, Oklahoma, and the late Kevin Washee. She is the granddaughter of Mary Billie and Richard ThunderBull, Jr. April is a member of the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma. She has attended Hartshorne schools for seven years. April has participated in high school band for four years, serving as a drum major for two years. She also played softball and was a member of the Jones Academy Indian Club. April is enrolled at Cheyenne Arapaho College and Southwestern Oklahoma State University. She plans to major in Finance.

Cassandra Fae White is the 18-year-old daughter of Donna White and Lawrence LittleBear of Pine Ridge, South Dakota. She is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Cassandra has been attending Hartshorne Public Schools for four years. She was active in the Learn and Serve Project, a community service program coordinated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. After graduation, she will attend classes in the fall at Oglala Lakota College in Kyle, South Dakota.

Maverick D. Williams is the 18-year-old son of Martha Henry and the grandson of the late I.D. Henry. Maverick has attended the Hartshorne Public Schools for three years and is active in football, power lifting and track. He is enrolled at Eastern Oklahoma State College where he will attend classes this coming fall.

Jessica Yeahquo, 18, is the daughter of Ramona Yeahquo and Andres Piñta and the granddaughter of Ida Yeahquo and Bobby Barnes. She is from Oklahoma City and is a member of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe. Jessica has attended Hartshorne Public School for six years. She plans to attend Community College to become a massage therapist.

Students offer service with Learn and Serve project

Helping others one by one, greater deeds can be done



Learn & Serve Project Youth Advisory Committee President Delaney Leyja receives her award for Outstanding Project Service from Assistant Chief Batton.



Receiving her award from Assistant Chief Batton for Outstanding Project Service is Learn & Serve Project Youth Advisory Committee Vice President Destiny Parker.

Over 100 students from the Jones Academy Learn and Serve Project gathered May 6 for an awards banquet to honor their service to their communities.

In acknowledgement of their service learning activities, which included Campus Clean-Ups, Big Brother & Big Sister Programs and Adopt-A-Grandparent Days at the local nursing home, as well as Adopt-A-Highway cleanups in collaboration with the Choctaw Nation Going Green Initiative, the students were presented with T-shirts, certificates, and service medals.

Employees from across the Choctaw Nation and Jones Academy staff honored the students by modeling "servant leadership" in serving the children the evening's meal. The students were encouraged by the guest speaker of the evening, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, to keep their spirit of service and to realize that



those qualities displayed in service learning are actually qualities that define success and help to create a successful leader. An expression of gratitude is extended to Chief Pyle, Assistant

Chief Batton, Executive Health Director Mickey Peercy, Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority Administrator Teresa Jackson and the numerous Choctaw Nation tribal employees and

Jones Academy staff who helped to make the night a huge success and honor for the students and the Learn and Serve Project.

Helping Others One by One, Greater Deeds Can Be Done.

Crafting the art of journalism



Jones Academy Journalism Instructor Kathy Luker and students Chelsea Marshall and Gary Burris attend career conference.

Jones Academy students Chelsea Marshall and Gary Burris, along with their journalism teacher Kathy Luker, attended the Tenth Annual Native American Journalism Career Conference April 14-16. The event was held at the Crazy Horse Memorial in Black Hills, South Dakota. The theme of the conference this year was "We Need More Native Americans in Journalism." The trip was fun, but the focus was on learning the art of journalism. Teachers and students spent three intense days learning about writing, interviewing, editing and producing media stories. They were exposed to the latest technology in cameras, voice recorders, computers and microphones. There were 33 schools represented at the conference and 150 students from all over the country. Chelsea, Gary and Mrs. Luker brought home a lot of information, new skills and enthusiasm to put into practice on the Jones Academy school newspaper.



Miss Oklahoma shares life lessons with Jones Academy students

Kelsey Cartwright, Miss Oklahoma 2008, made a special appearance at Jones Academy on April 2. In her presentation, "Making Lemonade Out of Life's Watermelons" - A Guide to Making Good Choices, Miss Oklahoma shared her life with the students. In her discussion, she covered topics pertaining to drug education and awareness, responsible decision making, respect for others, setting personal and educational goals and reaching potential. Her personal story of how she overcame many obstacles in her youth resonated with the students.

Indian Falls Creek

Indian Falls Creek, the nation's largest gathering of Native American Baptists, is coming up. During the week of July 27-31, Native people from across the nation will come to Davis, Oklahoma, to attend Indian Falls Creek 2009. This year's theme is "For Such a Time..." taken from Esther 4:14.

Dr. Anthony Jordan, Executive Director-Treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, will be the camp preacher for this year's camp.

For more information please contact the IFC Publicity Director, Ginelle Gordon, at ifc.publicity@yahoo.com.

Dressman wins competition

Congratulations to Tyler Dressman, a fifth grade student at Jones Academy, for winning first place with his breakfast menu. Tyler competed against his classmates at Jones Academy by using his nutrition knowledge and creativeness to create a healthy breakfast menu in his nutrition class. Tyler's breakfast will be served at Jones Academy for all students to try. Mrs. Sparks, registered dietician for Choctaw Nation who teaches nutrition class to the Jones Academy elementary students, stated, "All of the fifth grade students did a wonderful job. It wasn't easy choosing a winner, and I am very proud of all of them."



Jones celebrates academic achievements

Jones Academy elementary students, staff and Alpha Plus consultants, Jan Barrick and Donna Aldridge, celebrated their 2008 academic achievements with an ice cream party at Jones Academy on April 3. For the second year in a row, all the elementary students passed the Oklahoma Core Curriculum test. The festivity was held in recognition of the students' accomplishment as well as a way to inspire them for this year's testing. Alpha Plus representatives provide assistance throughout the year in an effort to meet the school's academic goals.



Program providing guitar lessons

Students at Jones Academy receive guitar lessons as part of an enrichment program to help students develop their cultural and artistic talents. Jones Academy has purchased 12 Fender acoustic guitars through a Choctaw Nation grant to be used by the students during the classes as well as for practice after hours. Two local experts, who have a depth of experience working with young apprentices, are teaching the lessons. The teachers are Clyde Spears, who played professionally for many years in his youth, and Tony Skinner, the Hartshorne High School music and choir director.



Enroll Now
at
Jones Academy!

We are accepting applications for the 2009-10 school year. We have openings in grades 1-12. **Tour our elementary school facilities and dorms.** Come Join Us! Be a Part of the Future! Take advantage of the residential program benefits:

- Tutorial Assistance for All Grades (1st-12th)
- Rewards for Academic Achievement
- High School Graduation Expenses Paid/Scholarships
- Career Counseling/College and Post-Secondary Preparation
- Voc-Tech Training
- Summer Youth Work Program
- Medical and Counseling Services Provided
- Alternative Education Program
- Traditional/Cultural Activities
- Recreational Activities & Educational Trips
- Agriculture Program

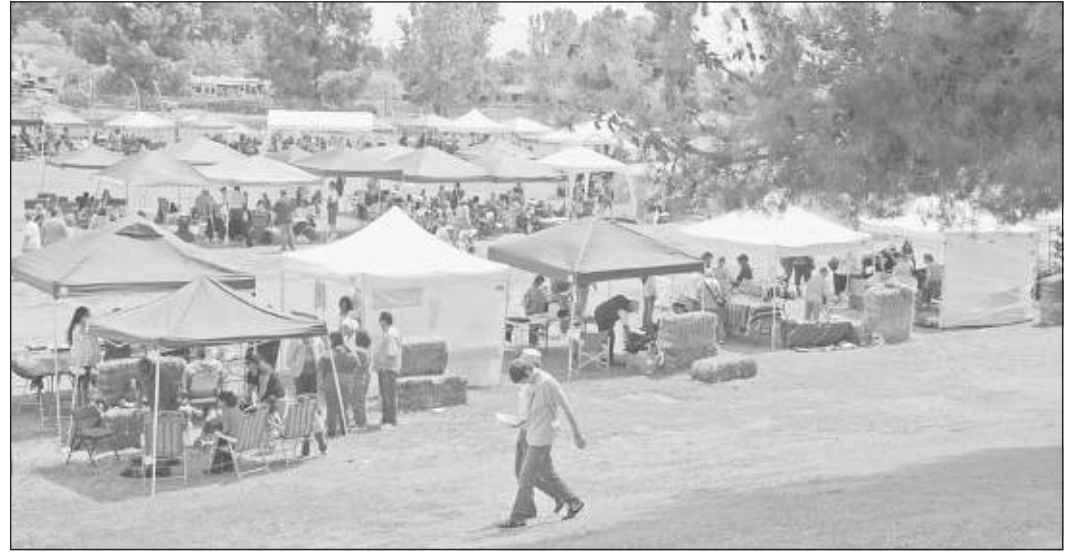
Please call for a tour or an application at toll free (888) 767-2518 or access www.choctawnation.com or write to:

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

Okla Chahta Gathering attracts hundreds to Bakersfield



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton present Pendleton blankets to Okla Chahta board members Mike Bryant, Bill Harrison, Nancy Paxton-Long and Aaron Wilkins and consultant Theresa Harrison.



The Okla Chahta Gathering is held on the Practice Field at the Bakersfield College.



Board members Bill Harrison and Aaron Wilkins present Mahli Billy a gift of appreciation. Mahli is singer for the Broken Bow Dancers.



Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton present Feather Paxton-Long with a Pendleton blanket. Feather is the Okla Chahta's Youth Advisory Board Chairperson.



Chief Pyle is chosen to join the Broken Bow Dancers in a social dance.



The Okla Chahta Gathering has turned into a reunion for descendants of Carlisle Norman Rose. What started as a few members from the family of James Clayton Rose, son of Carlisle, has domoed into a grand meeting of the Rose family. There were 35 family members at Bakersfield this year.



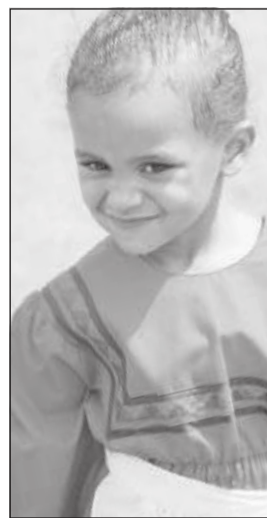
Kenny and Sarah Bryant visit with Bobby Highfill and son Eldon. The Highfills have relatives in Heavener.



Delton and Deloris Cox visit with Billie Ada Harris, formerly of Poteau.



Lawrence Grubbe plays the drum while Choctaw authors and storytellers Greg Rogers and Tim Tingle accompany on the flute.



Kaili Harrison.



Pedro Yvanez has a new flute.



Chief Pyle, Vonnie Crites of Tracy, California, and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Miss Choctaw Nation Dayla Amos, the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Vicki Amos, Cordia Samuels Heimel and Councilman Mike Amos.



Cora and David Bryant.



Bill Harrison presents Bishinik Editor Lisa Reed an award of appreciation from the Okla Chahta Clan.



Chief Pyle, Jack Griffith of Modesto, and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Anthony Dillard with Bettie and Vere Timmons from Clovis. Bettie came to the celebration at Bakersfield on her birthday!



Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation Kanda Jackson works with clay.



Grace Huff of Trever, California, and originally of Idabel, is pictured with Little Miss Cheyenne Shomo and Miss Choctaw Nation Dayla Amos.



Jack Emerson, pictured with Chief Pyle, is a veteran of the Korean Conflict.



Theresa Billy tells a story to a group of children, enlisting the help of one young man from the audience.

Olin Williams, right, performs a Choctaw wedding ceremony for Leroy and Ada Merryman. The two met at the Okla Chahta Gathering in May 2008. They were married in October later that year, but wanted to have a Choctaw wedding at Bakersfield, a year after they first met.



Law Enforcement issues tough reminder to public: *Click It or Ticket!*

For anyone who complains about getting a ticket for not buckling up when driving or riding in a motor vehicle, here's a crash course in reality from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- 41,059 people were killed on America's roadways in 2007.
- Over 14,000 passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2007 were not wearing their seat belts at the time of the fatal crash.

• In 2007, nearly 2.5 million people were injured in crashes. • Motor vehicle crashes cost the U.S. economy an estimated \$230.6 billion every single year.

While those may sound like just statistics, those of us at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma know from personal experi-



ence that those numbers are the actual faces of mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles and friends right here in southeastern Oklahoma. We tell too many families about losses that may have been prevented had a loved one only worn a seat

belt. This goes to the heart of the law enforcement department's mission to protect the public. That is why we joined with thousands of other state and local law enforcement and highway safety agencies nationwide to support the 2009

national Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement mobilization which ran May 18-31.

The good news is that we have seen unprecedented numbers of motorists buckling up over the past several years. Seat belts can be credited with saving more than 15,000 lives

in 2007 alone. Thanks in part to high-visibility enforcement campaigns like Click It or Ticket, this has led to an all-time high observed national seat belt usage rate of 83 percent in 2008 – a 25-percent increase over the past 14 years. But the tragic reality is that in our community there are still far too many people who are convinced that they don't need seat belts.

People often ask, "Aren't there more serious criminals on the street other than those who simply are not buckling up? They aren't hurting anyone but themselves."

To the contrary, the people who choose to disobey the law by not wearing their seat belts are taking a chance with not only their lives, but the emotional and financial health of

their families, friends and our community.

Death may be the ultimate consequence for not wearing a seat belt, but even for those who escape a fatal crash, the economic costs of injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes are staggering. Every year motor vehicle crashes cost our country an estimated \$230.6 billion. That equals more than \$800 per person per year!

Yes, this is a national problem, but law enforcement and first responders see the local faces at too many crash scenes.

We want 100 percent of motorists to buckle up. Buckling up costs you nothing, but the costs of NOT buckling up may be a ticket, or worse – your life. Treat this as a tough and potentially life-saving reminder: *Click It or Ticket!*

Choctaw Veterans Association Skullyville Post 4501



Several members of the Choctaw Veterans Association who live in the Spiro area have formed Skullyville Post 4501. Commander Bill Coleman Sr. says that this is the only post consisting of Choctaw veterans.

The group participated May 16 in the Choctaw Nation's commemorative Trail of Tears Walk, which began that morning at the historic Skullyville Cemetery and ended at the Spiro Community Center.

Post members gathered for a group photo in front of Spiro's "Wall of Veterans." Pictured are John Casey, Melton Stephens, Gail Chadwick, Leon Mize, Paul Fry, Harold Perry, Billy Coleman, J.B. Adams, Bob Coleman, Tom Swafford, and seated, Commander Bill Coleman Sr. Not pictured are Malcolm Stephens, Silas Adams, Bob Adams and Jimmy Coleman. Honorary members are Dean Anderson and Clarence Marrs.

Skullyville Post 4501 met for the first time on May 10, 2008, and continue to meet once a month. Officers chosen in the first meeting are Commander Bill Coleman Sr.; Adjutant Commander John Casey; Quartermaster Leon Mize; Adjutant Quartermaster John Casey; Sergeant at Arms Harold Perry and Chaplain Jim Fry. A By-Laws Committee was also formed with Chairman Bob Coleman, Assistant Chairman Tom Pat Swafford and members Milton Stephens, Malcolm Stephens and Bill Coleman.



PFC Anthony Fragola



Private Paul Fragola

Twins reunited

Twin brothers, PFC Anthony and Private Paul Fragola of the U.S. Army Engineering Battalion, were recently reunited when Anthony took furlough from Iraq so he could surprise his brother Paul at his graduation from basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The twins are the great-grandsons of original enrollee, Simpson E. Push, and the great-grandsons of former CNO Social Worker, Pauline Smith, and sons of Laurie Fragola of Syracuse, Uncle Vito Fragola II of Las Vegas, Nevada, grandparents Vito and Fran Fragola, Aunt Lee Parrish and Uncle Nashoba Ilabano, all of Hugo.

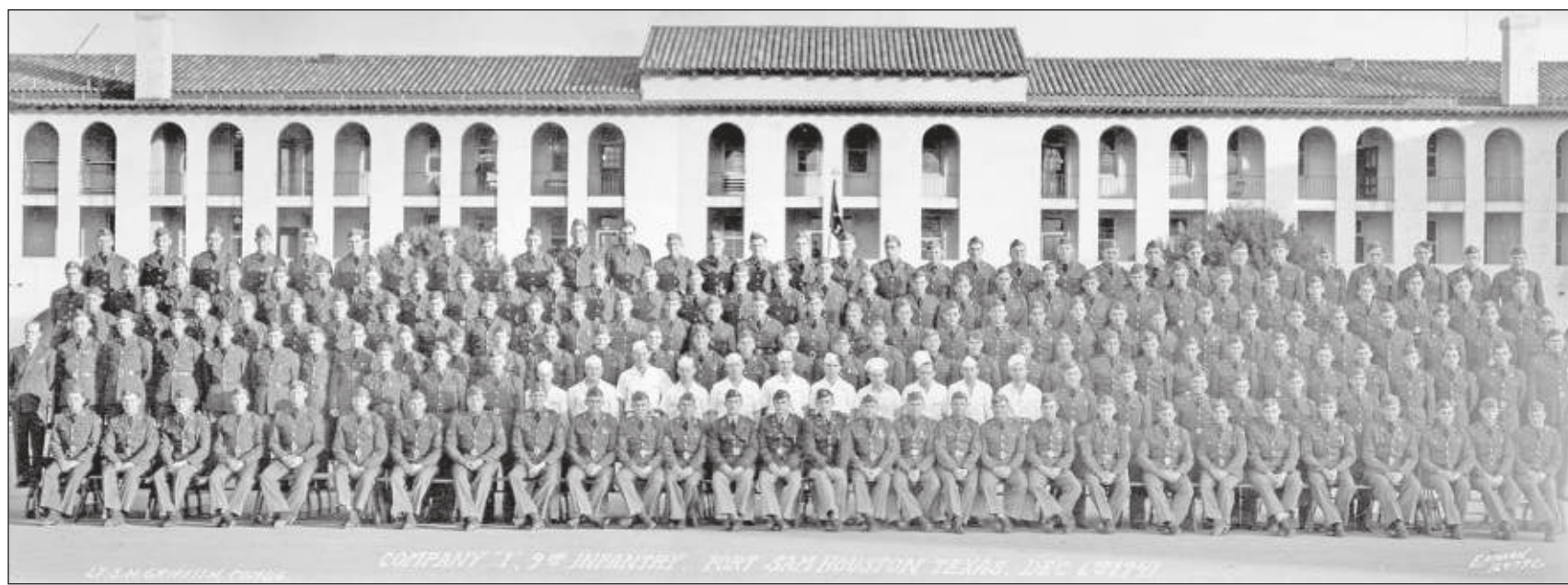
The family wants to take this opportunity to express their gratitude and to thank Chief Pyle for all of his accomplishments on behalf of all our Choctaw military men and women who are serving our nation, and thank the Bishinik for reminding all the Tribal members to get their loved ones enrolled in the CNO-APO Veterans Advocacy Program headed by Brent Oakes. These young Choctaw brothers are very proud of their Choctaw heritage and their Chief. When Anthony got his first APO package, he was so happy to show his buddies. Paul is deploying to Afghanistan and looking forward to getting his APO package as well.

Please continue to pray for all of our brave military men and women who answered their nation's call when asked, and are in harms way in foreign countries.



Henry deploys

IT2 Jerry Henry Jr. recently deployed on the guided missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke for a 6-month cruise. While gone they will participate in multi-national joint exercises in the North Atlantic before heading down to the Mediterranean. His wife and four children, Alex, Rhiannon, Thomas and Chase, would all like to say, "We miss you! Hurry home!"



Photos of World War II soldiers shared with tribe

By James D. Edwards
Son of Pfc. James D. Edwards

It is with great pride that I share the following information with Chief Pyle and the descendants of Choctaw Warrior Pfc. Aaron Cusher who honorably served the United States of America and represented the Choctaw Nation, the U.S. Army, and the 2nd Division with great pride during World War II.

For the past three years I have been actively engaged in researching my own father's (James D. Edwards) military history when upon the passing of my mother, I was given a small cigar box containing Army uniform patches, documents, medals and photographs of Dad and those he considered close friends.

While at the time many of the items had little importance or relevance, the photos are always interesting no matter the viewer's interest. Most of the photos Dad took with his own camera usually contained more than one

person, and usually with no explanation or other details since most everything that returned home from the war were censored out and valuable family and historical information removed.

However, photos that were taken while my father, including Pfc. Aaron Cusher and the rest of their unit were still in the United States, were not subject to censorship.

It became apparent to me that during my critique of each of the photos I determined that those that contained only the one subject were taken by a professional photographer as a matter of unit pride, and of course to send home to family.

In my father's collection of photographs I have a photo of Pfc. Aaron



PFC Aaron Cusher

Cusher. On the back-side of the photo it simply says, "Aaron Cusher, Medic, 9th Regiment."

I have two other such photos that were in dad's collection, each of a different soldier. As a matter of assumption, to the best of my determination, I have personally concluded that Aaron Cusher and my father became friends, and perhaps in their

friendship determined that each other was a Native American brother. (My father was a Tennessee Cherokee.)

During my research I determined that my father and Aaron were both soldiers in the 2nd Division, also known ironically enough, as the Indianhead Division. Of course, it is my belief that most Native Americans would have wanted to serve our country as a member of this honorable military unit.

Coincidentally, the reason I am contacting you today is because of a question that was posted on a website known as the "Friends of the US 2nd Infantry Division WWII" by a 2nd Division veteran who lives in Europe and is in his late 80s.

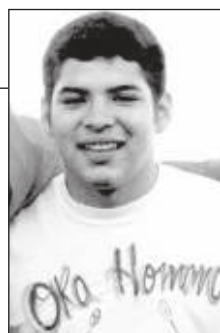
He wanted to know if there were any Native Americans that served with the 2nd Division? I served with the only two that I knew of, Dad and Aaron. I know there are many

Get-together planned for Battiest before he heads to boot camp

Mykiyah Wilson Battiest has joined the Marines and will be leaving for boot camp in July.

Mykiyah would like to invite everyone for a little get-together before he leaves. There will be a little dinner and a little singing on June 27 at the Choctaw Community Center in Idabel, starting at 5 p.m.

Mykiyah is the son of Stephanie Battiest of Idabel and Richard Williston of Oak Hill Community. Grandparents are Stella Williston of Idabel and the late Mary Louise Battiest.





Atoka singers claimed first place in the Choctaw Nation Senior Day gospel singing contest held May 27 in Durant.

Choctaw Nation Senior Day '09



Second place in the gospel singing contest are the seniors from District 4, Poteau.



The Durant group won third place in the gospel singing competition.



Hat contest winners in the women's division are first place, Rosalie Mitchell, District 8; second place, Elizabeth Harkins, District 12; and third place, Lydia McClure, District 1; In the men's division, winners are first place, Jim Fry, District 4.5; second place, Walter Davis, District 2; and third place, Harry James, District 3.



Chief Greg Pyle stops by to chat with former Tribal Judge Juanita Jefferson.



Council Speaker Delton Cox, Howard and Wilhemena Bryant, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Daniel Adams arrive at the Senior Day festivities.



Districts turned in their name tags for the annual competition with the theme, "Living today for a better tomorrow." This year's winners are first place, District 11, McAlester; second place, District 10, Atoka; and third place, District 1, Idabel.

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 Muskogee, Oklahoma, during the Labor Day Festivities. Included will be the following categories: Painting, Graphics, Cultural, Sculpture, Jewelry, Pottery and Basketry. Please fill out the form and return it to the address below. Art information packets will be mailed beginning in April.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 E-mail _____
 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
 PO Box 1210
 Durant, OK 74702

For more information, call Cindy Matson at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2481.

McCoy to attend LEAD Business Leadership Institute

Callie McCoy will be one of 10 Native American seniors in high school to attend a LEAD Business Leadership Institute at Dartmouth in New Hampshire for the month of July. The first of four weeks the students will be looking at problems that are unique to tribal businesses and reservations, including environmental laws. Her last three weeks will be spent learning leadership and college survival skills.



Callie is proud to represent the Choctaw Nation and thankful for the scholarship from the NAFOA organization, who has generously funded this experience.

She is the daughter of John and Carrie McCoy of Medford, Oregon.



Cousins Elizabeth Smith, Jackie Hull, and George Allen together again for the first time in 55 years.

Cousins see each other after 55 years

Cousins Elizabeth Smith, Jackie Hull and George Allen had not seen each other in 55 years. That changed April 24 and 25 when Jackie Hull and George Allen, children of Opal Thompson and Perkins Allen, visited Elizabeth while retracing family history.

They stopped in Millerton, Oklahoma, to see the historic Wheelock Academy.

They visited their grandfather's (Shelby Perkins) grave in Caney. They also visited the Perkins Cemetery in Caney.

Reminiscing brought back many memories for all.

Elizabeth lives on the same property; however, the house had been rebuilt.

George's wife, Jackie and Jackie Hull's youngest daughter, Verla Marie, were also with them.



Picture donated to Wheelock Museum

A large 3-by-4-foot picture of the old Wheelock Church has been donated to the Wheelock Academy Museum by Councilman Anthony Dillard and the District 10 Field Office. Viola Battiest and Reggie Baker are hanging it in the main museum hall.

Choctaw Nation MEMORIAL BRICK SIDEWALK

Wheelock Academy Museum & Gift Shop

Alumni/Families/Friends of Wheelock Academy

It's not too late to purchase your Memorial Brick for the Memorial Walk in and around Wheelock Academy. Come look and see how nice they look.

For tax deduction make check payable to:

CHAHTA Foundation

Wheelock Academy

or stop by

Wheelock Academy

Museum & Gift Shop

on Hwy. 70 East, Millerton, Oklahoma, and while there ... visit our gift shop and see the assortment of gift ideas on hand!

- wheelock@valliant.net -

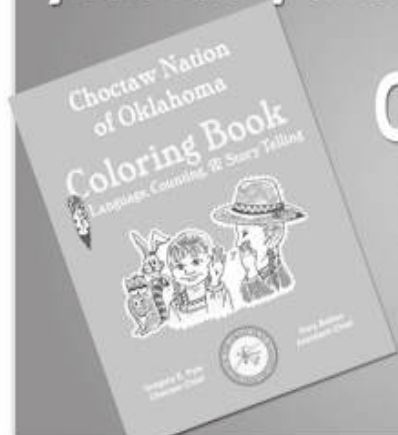
Open Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Hwy. 70 East 580-746-2139 Millerton, OK

CHOCTAW STORE OFFICIAL PRODUCTS

choctawstore.com

FEATURE PRODUCT OF THE MONTH!



Children's Coloring Book

\$3.00 each

Choctaws... growing with pride, hope, and success!



Adam Bull assisted with door prizes at the community gathering of Houston-area Choctaws. Chief Greg Pyle gave him some gifts for his help.



Mike Morgan, Chief Pyle and Susie Morgan in Houston.

Houston Community Gathering



Tommy and Judy Bland of Spring, Texas, enjoy visiting with Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Enjoying his cookie is Andon Flenoy, with his sister, Alana, and mom and Dad, Adonna and Donald.



Melissa and Mia Janelle Reich read a good book while waiting for the meeting to begin.



Ralph Coxsey, the great-great-grandson of Peter Pitchlyn, is formerly of Durant but now lives in Houston.



Myles Morgan visits the Choctaw Housing information table at the Houston meeting.

The Native American Political Leadership Program



The George Washington University's Semester In Washington – Washington's most respected political leadership program – announces its 2010 AT&T Native American Political Leadership Program (NAPLP).

Full Scholarships

In January 2010, a select group of qualified Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students will receive individual scholarships to cover tuition, fees, housing, books and other expenses. As a participant in NAPLP you will have the opportunity to:

- Spend a semester in the nation's capital while taking classes at GW
- Participate in hand-on internships
- Interact with political leaders and policy makers
- Receive academic credit for classroom study
- Study issues of importance to your communities

You will learn key elements of political campaigns and governance such as:

- Message development
- Voter targeting
- Media production
- Direct Mail
- Fundraising
- Lobbying
- Grassroots Advocacy

How To Apply

Interested students who are enrolled members of a Native American community or possess proof of ancestry may apply online, download our application or mail the copies attached to:

SIW Admissions,
The George Washington University
1922 F Street, NW, Room 401-A
Washington, DC 20052

SIW requires the following application pieces:

- NAPLP Admissions application- available here: www.siwpolitics.gwu.edu
- NAPLP Scholarship application- available here: www.gwu.edu/~siw/politics/naplp
- One letter of recommendation
- Official transcripts of all college academic work
- A current resume
- Indication of tribal enrollment and/or Native American (American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian) ancestry

Contact Us

Call us at 202-994-8908 or toll-free at 1-800-367-4776. Email us at NAPLP@gwu.edu.

Application DEADLINE for spring 2010 is November 1, 2009
siwpolitics.gwu.edu



District 4 crowns 2009-10 princesses

Choctaw Nation District #4 held their annual Miss Princess Pageant in the Choctaw Investment Center at Poteau. The following girls were crowned princess and will represent District #4 this next year and also compete for the Choctaw Princess title at the Labor Day Festival in Tushka Homma this fall. Pictured from left to right are Judge Carol Harris of Spiro, Judge Evelyn Kasworm of Greenwood, Arkansas, Senior Princess Andrea Ford of Howe, Junior Princess Kacie Raines of Wister, Little Miss Princess Adrianna Curnutt of Wister and Councilman Delton Cox.



Loren Crosby is District 7 Little Miss

The Choctaw Nation District 7 held its annual Princess Pageant on May 26. Pictured above are the contestants for the Little Miss Princess pageant, Alisha Hardy, Karen Crosby, Emily Rodriguez all of Wright City, Erica Taylor of Rattan and Little Miss Princess Loren Crosby. Pictured at right are District Councilman Jack Austin with Little Miss Loren Cosby.



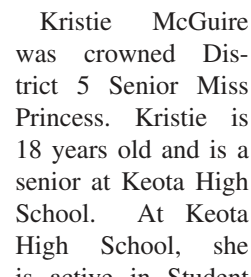
District 5 Princesses



Kristie McGuire



Rachel Renee Hogan



Juanita Rose Gonzalez

Kristie McGuire was crowned District 5 Senior Miss Princess. Kristie is 18 years old and is a senior at Keota High School. At Keota High School, she is active in Student Council and was a Girls State Member. She enjoys reading, camping, swimming and fishing.

Rachel Renee Hogan was crowned District 5 Junior Miss Princess. Rachel is 16 years old and is a junior at Keota High School. She is the daughter of Johnny Hogan and Deborah Sewell. She enjoys reading, music, beading, sewing, drawing, playing on the computer, church and hanging out with friends.

Juanita Rose Gonzalez was crowned District 5 Little Miss Princess. Juanita is 9 years old and attends third grade at Stigler Grade School. She is the daughter of Victoria Gonzalez. She enjoys riding bikes with her brothers, playing basketball, attending Girl Scouts and attending gospel singings with her grandfather.

District 10 runner up

Alissa Lynn Kindred is the 8-year-old daughter of Jody and Melissa Carter kindred of Daisy. She recently competed in the District 10 Little Miss Choctaw Pageant where she placed first runner up. Alissa would like to thank Councilman Anthony Dillard for this great experience, and special thanks to Twila Pittman, Kay Jackson, Naomi LeFlore, Martha Dewitt and Gwen Takeshorse for all your help in making this experience possible. She is especially thankful to her family for all of their support, but most of all to the Lord above for "making me, me."



District 10 contestant says thank you

Angela McElmurry would like to thank District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard, Naomi Leflore, Twila Pittman, the judges and all others involved with the District 10 Princess Pageant for making it possible. I would like to give special thanks to Naomi LeFlore for providing the cultural native dress and beads for her at the pageant. I really enjoyed being a participant in the pageant and had lots of fun.



Youth Advisory Board active in community



At Bennington YAB Youth Fun Day 2009, Youth Advisory Board member's Jake Burch and Ben Singleton play a game of hula hoop relay with a couple of youngsters.

The Bennington Chapter of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board has been involved in several community activities for the last several months.

They have participated in the SWAT "Kick Butts" Day, a national day to promote tobacco prevention; Families Feeding Families, a program that serves dinner to families in need; Youth Fun Day for elementary students to have fun with YAB'sters, and Build a Blue Ribbon Tree to promote and remind communities that May is Child Abuse Prevention month.



Bennington YAB members, Jessica Layton and Erin DeWalt volunteer at Families Feeding Families in Durant.



Members of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board and fellow Caney High School students show their support.



Pictured left to right are Erin DeWalt, Jake Burch, Hope Thornton, Alex King, Jessica Layton, Nathan Jackson, Debra Tate, Ben Singleton, Brandi Clancy and Tyler Minyard.

Tie a blue ribbon in support of Help Prevent Child Abuse campaign



A Blue Ribbon Tree was put up at the Coalgate courthouse to show support for all children and to make the public aware of child abuse. Pictured are Leandra Morgan, Carrie Clem, Shane Orr and Hunter Romano.

Members of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board showed their support for Child Abuse Awareness Month by tying blue ribbons around trees throughout southeastern Oklahoma. The YAB students partnered with first through third grade students to show their support. The Blue Ribbon Tree shows support for all children and to make the public aware of child abuse.



A blue ribbon tree is picked out at Tushka Elementary School. Pictured are YAB members Easton Crow, James Moore and Caleb Curtis.



Members of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board put up a Blue Ribbon Tree at the Choctaw Nation Headquarters. Pictured are Kerwin Moore, Alexandria Harris, Mackenzie Dills, Randy Thomas, Shanelka Barboan, Thomas Owens, Kira Moore, Gabby Williams and Hailie McGinnis. Front left to right: Justin Jernigan, Gillette Thomas and Blaine Ellett.



YAB members place a Blue Ribbon Tree at the Atoka courthouse. Pictured are Jordan Hutchings, Rebecca Timmons, James Moore, Andriah Yarbrough, Easton Crow, Faith Mincher and Jace Hutchings.



Talihina YAB members participate in a butterfly release in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention.

To the Youth of the Nation

Teenagers with health problems need encouragement

By Stephanie Gibbs

When most people think of teenagers, they think of them not having a care in the world. This is not always the case. There are many teenagers who have medical and health problems. Most people don't think much about the health of those around them.

I, for one have some serious but questionable medical problems. I speak for myself and others with problems like mine and how they feel about it. Teenagers with medical and health problems can feel like outcasts, depressed and as if nobody understands what they're going through.

Although you might think

most teenagers do not really care for anything, that is not true. Nobody is perfect and just because someone has something wrong with them does not mean they only think of themselves. Teenagers are part of our world, too; they are the youth of this universe. So, the next time you see a teenager who is not out there having fun or being depressed because others don't believe they can do something, encourage them to get out there and be brave, happy and encourage them to pursue their dreams.

Having these sorts of problems is not always a bad thing. It can help teenagers to have faith, hope and bravery. They can do anything! Sure, they

may have something that is not common, but in my opinion every person has their own talent. Next time you think about teenagers, do not think they do not care for this world, because they do.

I would like to conclude with this: If you are a person with medical or health problems, do not think that you cannot do something, just get out there and believe in yourself. If you are someone who thinks teenagers do not have a care for our world, rethink yourself. Teenagers are our youth of our world and encourage them. Just because they may have something wrong with them does not mean they can't do something.

Choctaw scholar Chelsea Wells to attend Yale University

For most of her life Chelsea Wells of Hugo felt she would go to college close to home, probably at an in-state school. That was before two Internet websites – combined with sound advice and coaching from the Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program – changed everything for the National Honor Society senior from Hugo High School and two-year chairperson of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Youth Advisory Board.

“CNO scholars would do well to follow Chelsea’s model,” says Choctaw Chief, Gregory E. Pyle. “She was persistent and she took advantage of all we could offer, especially our Scholarship Advisement Program.”

For Chelsea, event number one was the discovery of the Native Fly-In, a Dartmouth College program that seeks and brings high-performing Native American students to the Hanover, New Hampshire, Ivy League school for a week-long orientation in October. “I didn’t know much about Dartmouth,” says Chelsea. “I didn’t even know that much about the Ivy Leagues,” she adds. “But after the Dartmouth experience I knew I wanted to go to school out of state. I could see how it would open up new doors and let me experience things I’d never imagined.”

Event number two was finding Questbridge, a national program that links bright, motivated, low-income students to financial aid opportunities at some of the nation’s best colleges. By filling out just one online application Chelsea applied to nearly 10 Questbridge partner colleges – a list that includes Vassar, Oberlin, Dartmouth, Yale and more.

“I waited until December 31, the final deadline, to send in my



application,” says Chelsea. “I didn’t think I could get accepted to these kinds of schools, so I almost didn’t apply,” she admits. Now she’s glad she did.

After the Native Fly-In visit to Hanover Chelsea was set on Dartmouth. But that was before an all-expense paid trip to Yale.

“We visited Yale three weeks ago and I fell in love with the school and everything about it,” she says. “Plus their financial package was amazing.”

So Chelsea made her decision. The Hugo High Fighting Buffaloes Honor Student, cheerleader and member of Student Council, Varsity Basketball, Show Choir and Spanish Club will be off to New Haven, Connecticut, this fall: To the tables down at Mory’s; to the place where Louis dwells. Chelsea Wells is going to Yale.

“If you really want to do something, don’t worry about what others say – and don’t be afraid to try,” says Chelsea. “That’s how I got accepted to Yale.” But she also believes in seeking out the advice of others. “There are people out there who know how to get you where you want to be and can help you,” says Chelsea. “One group that’s helped me is the Choctaw Nation’s Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP).”

“SAP was with me through the whole process. If I needed anything, they knew who to contact. Anything and everything – they’d find a person I could speak with. If they found a scholar-

ship I could apply for, they told me about it. Any questions I had about financial aid – they answered them.”

“Chelsea is one of our stars,” says SAP Director Jo McDaniel. “She’s persistent, and that’s typical of all our high-achieving students.”

One example of Chelsea’s persistence is common among SAP’s top students, according to McDaniel. It’s Chelsea’s ACT score. “Chelsea’s score is 28, but she started with a 23. We tell our students to take the ACT test as many times as possible and to start early,” says McDaniel. “Chelsea took the ACT six times.”

“At Yale, I want to soak up everything!” Chelsea says. “Becoming fluent in Spanish is just one of the goals atop my ‘to do’ list.” Chelsea’s Native American roots have fueled an interest in different cultures and in uncovering the past. Her ambitions include medical, cultural and public service goals. Chelsea is interested in anthropology but also plans to take pre-dental classes. “These courses will allow me to take the science courses I enjoy while also preparing me for dental school and eventually orthodontic school,” she says. After school, she looks forward to helping others in underdeveloped foreign countries. She may join the Peace Corps and work as an orthodontist/dentist in places where the need is great.

A favorite author, Leo Rosten, sums up life’s meaning best for Chelsea Wells: “The purpose of life is not to be happy – but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all.”

“I want my life to symbolize this,” she says.

Let’s keep the holidays safe!

We are coming up on the summer holiday season. Fourth of July and Labor Day are times of celebration; family dinner’s and cook-outs with friends. It’s also a time of increased injuries due to firecrackers and vehicle crashes. This summer let’s use these few tips to keep our loved ones safe and not spoil the weekend with a trip to the hospital.



Fireworks Safety Tips

- Always use under adult supervision
- Read and follow instructions
- Always keep water and sand nearby
- NEVER light indoors use only OUTDOORS

- Never try to make your own fireworks
- Never relight fireworks that appear to have gone out
- Only light one at a time
- Never allow small children to go near fireworks
- Store in a cool dry place
- Never lean over top of fireworks to light them
- Tie hair back, wear safety goggles and no loose fitting clothes
- Sparklers should be immersed in sand once they appear out - they are still very hot and can burn

Vehicle Safety Tips

Alcohol impaired driving is one of America’s most-often-committed and deadliest crimes. Impaired driving is no accident-nor is it a victimless crime.

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver and give that person your keys.
- If you impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member so you are sure to get home safely.
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don’t hesitate to contact your local law enforcement. Access the Oklahoma Highway Patrol on your cellular phone by pressing *55 then send.
- If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get where they are going safely.

Driving impaired is simply not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be significant. Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver’s license, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses. It’s obvious to recognize someone who’s had way too much to drink, but what about those who have had just a few too many. You don’t have to be “falling down drunk” to be a threat to yourself and other on the road. No tolerance means NO TOLERANCE. Not even one drink.

This article was sponsored by the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program. Facts for this article were taken from NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) and the National Council on Fireworks Safety. If you have any questions regarding this article, the injury prevention program, or need your child’s car seat inspected please contact me, Beckie Morris, at 877-285-6893, or e-mail me at RMorris@choctawnation.com.

Code Talker descendant is appointed Mayor of Blanchard

On May 28, the great-grandson of World War I Choctaw Code Talker Ben Carterby was appointed Mayor of Blanchard, Oklahoma. Blanchard’s City Hall is directly across the street from the bronze statue honoring Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant First Class Tony K. Burris.

Greg Shupert has spent approximately 15 years on the Blanchard City Council and has been nominated by the City Council before but had not accepted due to being the owner of “Shupert Construction,” “Shupe’s,” a family-operated restaurant, and working with FEMA after Hurricane Katrina.

Greg Shupert began his construction business with a tool box containing only a hammer and some nails.



Moore graduates

Congratulations to Nathan Moore on his graduation from nursing school. Nathan has been working very hard for the last three years at Hartnell College in Salinas, California, and has made his family so proud. He has always been helpful to

others and we know that he will do an outstanding job as a nurse. We hope that he will be happy with his new career change and that it will bring him many wonderful moments of helping others. Nathan was born and raised in Fresno, California; the son of Sheri and Charles Moore and brother of Christopher and Amber. He is also the loving husband of Jennifer Moore and wonderful father to Sophia Moore.



Sid Hudson, State Regents Vice Chancellor for Legislative Relations, Communications, Economic Development and Research; Kathy Hendrick, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Matt Gregory, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; Suzanne Martin, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Joy Culbreath, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; Dr. Michael Turner, President of Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Ryan Adams, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; and Kyle Stafford, Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

State regents recognize partnership

Southeastern Oklahoma State University was among 21 institutions throughout the state who were recently recognized for their innovative partnership with community business through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education’s Economic Development Grant for the Partnership Recognition Program.

The program is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents’ Economic Development Grants.

Institutions involved in these partnerships provide \$500 for tuition waivers to employees of the partnering businesses, internships for current students of the institutions to work at the partnering businesses, faculty externships with the partnering businesses, and/or enhancement of the partnership with additional equipment, materials or supplies. The State Regents

provide a \$500 match to the waivers.

“These partnerships are important for higher education in allowing colleges and universities to work hand-in-hand with businesses to provide highly qualified graduates to meet the needs of the workforce,” said Chancellor Glen D. Johnson. “For businesses, the partnerships are equally important in providing the ability to stay on the leading edge of education and training for their employees.”

SOSU and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma have made a tremendous impact and investment in southern Oklahoma.

The Choctaw Nation’s first major contribution was refurbishing the Choctaw Tower 10 years ago, while the most recent capital investment was the newly constructed student union building.

The Choctaw Nation participates in an economic bi-state group focused on connecting education, industry and eco-

nomics development.

The Choctaw Nation also hosts a youth leadership summit each summer, which SOSU co-sponsors.

The Choctaw Nation provides numerous scholarships to its members and partners through the O.J. Harvey Scholarship and also provides tuition reimbursement to its employees that want to further their education and expand their knowledge and abilities with a college education. In addition, the Choctaw Nation encourages its youth to attain the highest level of education by sponsoring Native American Visitation Day at SOSU.

The university and the Choctaw Nation have numerous partnerships, such as the Southeastern Office Retention Staff, Choctaw peer advisors on campus and the Native American Graduation Reception.

More details about the partnerships will be available soon on the State Regents’ website, www.okhighered.org/eco-devo.



Luncheon held for Hugo graduating seniors

Choctaw Nation recently honored Hugo High School Choctaw seniors with a Johnson-O’Malley luncheon. Pictured are Stephanie Hodge, Karen Lyles, Kacey Jackson, Jo McDaniel, Debbie Golden, Deforest Bostic, Cathy Davidson, Tribal Councilman Perry Thompson, Danielle Adams, Chelsea Wells, Olen Cox, Kent Davidson, Jeffrey Jones, Brooke Rangel, Jason James, Ryan Satterfield, Kobie Oakes, Tony Daugherty, Johnna Lancaster, Chance Lafflore, Alexis Collins, Brittany Wright, Bruce Thomas, Shaniqua Gage and Shabreka Coleman.



Mitchell named Best New Journalist of the Year

Randy Mitchell, an Ada Evening News Reporter since October 2007, has been named Best New Journalist of the Year by the Associated Press of Oklahoma and Oklahoma News Executives. The award is given to a reporter, copy editor, photojournalist, editor or designer who has worked at a daily newspaper for two years or less who demonstrates high achievement and dedication to the craft of daily journalism. The winner receives an engraved plaque and

\$200 cash. Mitchell covers stories that range from grass and structure fires to car wrecks, said AEN Managing Editor Talina Turner. “He’s always hungry for breaking news and eager to get the story. He’s a great writer and a wonderful photographer. Randy brings a lot of talent to the job.”

“It’s a tough but rewarding job,” said Mitchell. “I’m very grateful to the Associated Press for picking me for this award. I love working for the Ada Evening News and serving residents of Pontotoc and surrounding counties.”

Hartshorne Class of 1966 Reunion

The Hartshorne High Class of 1966 is planning a reunion for the July 4 weekend and needs help finding classmates Edna Francis, Sophie Impson, Clara McClure and Claire Taylor. If you were a member of that class or know someone who was, would you please contact Kay Isbell Day at 918-355-4049 or bday967768@yahoo.com with that information?

Dunford, Thompson, Fulson Reunion

The 2009 Dunford/Thompson/Fulson family reunion will be a two-day event, starting July 11 with a family and friends pot-luck at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in Paris, Texas. It will be from 12 noon to 4 p.m. This year, the reunion will be hosted by the Thompson Family.

On July 12, the family would like to invite you to join them for service at the Mt. King Church of Christ, 1950 Martin Luther King Blvd., Paris, Texas. It begins at 10:45 a.m. with Pastor Glenn Burgess.

Bring your favorite home-cooked dish or dessert for all to enjoy. Cash donations will be accepted at the door and deeply appreciated. For more information, please feel free to contact Juanita Thompson, 903-227-4055; Ruth Thompson, 323-365-8822; or Bessie Tyson, 918-569-4931.

42nd Annual Buck Memorial Singing

The Buck Family would like to invite everyone to the 42nd Annual Buck Memorial Singing, which will be held at the Buck Pavilion, Hughes County Expo Center, in Holdenville. Scheduled to sing on Friday night, July 17, are the Gold City Quartet and the Homesteaders; on Saturday night, July 18, Gold City and the Anchormen will be singing. Also, there will be a local talent singing each night. This is a free concert, however a love offering will be taken to help cover expenses. Singing will start at 7 p.m. A concession stand will be available.

Jim Family Reunion

The descendants of Abbot, Emmitt, Willie Jim and Francis Jim Haney Family Reunion will be August 1 at Robber’s Cave in Wilburton. Please meet at Pavilion #7 at 11 a.m. All family members are encouraged to come. Potluck will be served, if each family would please bring your favorite pot-luck. Please bring pictures or anything that your family would enjoy sharing. Please bring your own lawn chairs. There is also a lake nearby for anyone wanting to swim. Bring your gloves for a game of softball. For more information or directions, contact Lisa Taylor Mitchell, 405-625-1957, or email snowball8tve@yahoo.com, and/or Lisa Jim Leal at 580-402-3319.

OBITUARIES

Billie Elizabeth Cevallos

Billie Elizabeth Cevallos, 90, passed away April 19, 2009, at her home in Talihina. She was born on the family farm March 24, 1919, in Stone Bluff.

She survived many tornadoes and the Great Depression. She moved to California to be with her children, but kept the family close together from Oklahoma to California. She traveled almost every year by auto to the Choctaw Gathering, until she moved to Talihina. She made sure we all honored our Choctaw heritage and understood the importance of our culture. She insisted that we all keep the ancestors' lives and stories alive, and continually encouraged us to pass our family history on to our children. Our matriarch led by example, teaching us to have an honest, strong work ethic, along with the good family values that she was raised with on that Oklahoma farm. Family always came first. Learning the fruits of our labor, our commitment to our loved ones has helped us all grow strong. We are all proud to be her progeny. She will be missed dearly by all, but a part of her will always stay with us in loving memory.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents; Jessie and Nancy Blansit (Hawkins) Miller and William and Luvacey (Ward) Robbins; her parents, David Zachary and Myrtle Myra (Miller) Robbins; her siblings, Elmer Zacharias, David W., Homer, Pearl Ellen, Velma R., Lillian Pauline, Ray Vernon, and Helena Robbins; her daughter, Merita Sue Hill; and 4 grandchildren, Tony Randall, Richard Gregory, Daniel Gary, and Sean Michael Long.

She is survived by her husband, Enrique Cevallos; sister, Merita Robbins; children, Sherry Pyburn and Gary Ayers; grandchildren, Timothy Long, Lisa Avila, Monique Pyburn, Heather Trabor, Eric Ayers, Kristie Nolen, Drew Ayers, Brittany Dodds and Chad Jefferson; great-grandchildren, Nicole Brewer, Aaron Hull, Daniel Long, Delaina Momper, Curtis Avila, Anthony Nolen, Rhyanna Theriault, Janelle Avila, Tyler Ayers, Samantha Traber, twins, Chelsea and Ciara Ayers, Sarah Traber, Makenna Ayers, Eric Long, James Traylor II, Carissa Nolen, Sara Long, Maizey Traylor, Calla-Lily Dodds, Jackson Dodds; and great-great-grandchildren, Lucas Marion, Kaleb Marion, Desiree Hensley, Aurora Long, Zander Long, Delicy Ramirez and Jessalina Ramirez.



Lonnie Ray Kile

Lonnie Ray Kile, 65, of Wynnewood passed away on March 21, 2009. He was born to O.M. Kile Sr. and Frankie Riley Kile on July 20, 1943, in Pauls Valley

Lonnie graduated from Wynnewood High School in 1961. After graduation, he attended Okmulgee Technical School and took auto-body classes. After a short stint in the oil field, Lonnie went to work for Boeing Manufacturing in Kansas then returned to Wynnewood in 1967 to work for his Dad at Okie Manufacturing. In 1968, Lonnie went to work for Kerr McGee Refinery and continued to work there, even during the change to Wynnewood Refining Company, until retirement in 2007.

Lonnie was an avid hunter and fisherman. The highlights of his life were hunting and fishing with his sons and grandsons and vacationing in the summer with his wife.

He is survived by his wife, Judy Kile of the home; sons, Mike Kile and his wife, Melissa of Elmore City and Darrin Kile of Elmore City; grandsons, Colby and Ethan Kile and granddaughter, Ashley Kile



William Ed Myers Sr.

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

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

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

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

Sheryl Diane Mauldin Burris

Sheryl Diane Mauldin Burris passed away on January 27, 2009, at Highland Park Hospital after nearly a year-long battle with leukemia. Sheryl was born on January 16, 1947, in Marceline, Missouri to Vernon Lester Mauldin and Hazel Gertrude Chapman Mauldin.

Her father was a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Army, so they moved around often as she grew up, but she considered Kansas City as her home. This is where she met her husband of 36 years, John Burris. Together they had a daughter, Patricia, and later moved to Waukegan, Illinois. Sheryl was an extremely giving person and greatly loved by all members of her family. Her niece, Letha, held a special place in her heart having donated a kidney to her in 2002. She encountered battles in her life and through her strength and courage she managed to defeat most of those challenges. Sheryl worked for Southwestern Bell in Kansas City and Ameritech in Illinois until her retirement in 1994. She was a proud member of the Choctaw tribe and was a very generous person. During her leisurely time, she enjoyed working on her family genealogy because her heritage and family meant a great deal to her.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Oueda Mauldin Clark; her brother, Greg Mauldin; and her aunts, Velma Mauldin DeGraw and Helen Mauldin Lee.

She is survived by her husband; her daughter, Patricia Burris and her son-in-law, Jason Colon of Beach Park, Illinois; her sister, Charlotte Mauldin Perdue of Overland Park, Kansas; her brother, Daniel Mauldin of Farley, Missouri, and Tim Fowler of Atchison, Kansas; her aunts, Dorothy Chapman Minich and Melonee Mauldin; her nieces, Nancy Perdue Merrell and Letha Bass Higgins; her nephew, Troy Perdue, and many other loving family members and friends.



Joseph 'Joe' Gover Cricklin

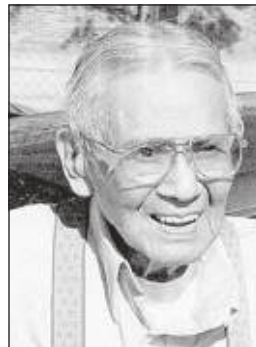
Joseph "Joe" Grover Cricklin, 92, passed away at home after a lengthy illness on April 9, 2009. He was born December 30, 1916, in Whitefield to Fred Cricklin and Mary Jackson.

Joe was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation and also a member of what has come to be called America's "Greatest Generation." This generation through its sacrifice and courage, brought this country safely through the Great Depression and World War II.

Joe fought in the Pacific as a combat infantryman with the 37th Infantry Division participating in the Bougainville (Solomon Islands) campaign, the invasion of Luzon, and the liberation of Manila. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Silver Star and the Bronze Star for valor, and the Purple Heart for combat wounds suffered. Discharged from the Army after the war, Joe returned to Muskogee where he met and married his wife of sixty years, the former Wanda Mae Scott. Shortly thereafter, he re-entered the service by enlisting in the newly formed Air Force serving in both Korea and Vietnam during times of hostility. He retired in 1965 after a 22 year career. Settling in Midwest City, he worked in the civil service at Tinker A.F.B. until his final retirement in 1984. Jo and Wanda spent their last years together traveling the country as much as possible.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; brother, Claude and sister, Anna Mae Barrows.

Joe is survived by son, Rick Cricklin and wife, Betty of Norman; daughter, Sandi Weldon and husband, Glenn of Midwest City; grandchildren, Richard Cricklin and wife, Stephanie of Oklahoma City, David Cricklin and wife, Nikki of Edmond, Lt. Col. Deborah Cricklin of Navarre, Florida, Devin Weldon of Oklahoma City and Corey Weldon of Houston; 2 great-grandchildren, Kyle and Sydney Cricklin of Oklahoma City; sisters, Rosa Jane Harrison of Muskogee and Christine Byrum of Choctaw as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



Noah Parish Jr.

Noah Parish Jr., 64, formerly of McAlester, died April 4, 2009, in Tulsa. Noah was born April 7, 1944, to Noah Sr. and Juanita Polk Parish in Bennington.

He grew up in California and graduated in 1962 from Belmont High School, Los Angeles, California. He attended Brighter Day Church.

Noah is preceded in death by his parents; maternal grandparents, Elizabeth and Loren Polk; and paternal grandparents, Elias and Melissa Parish.

He is survived by his son, James Scott of Wilburton; daughter, Ashley Miller and husband Joshua of Haileyville; grandchildren, Seth, Jordan, Joshua and Kiersten; sisters, Betty Thomas of McAlester, Lillie Mae Leija of Azusa, California, and Eldina Marris of Durant; aunt, Elizabeth McKenzie of McAlester and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and other family and friends.



Lillie Jean Riggins Doyle

Lillie Jean Riggins Doyle passed away on March 20, 2008. Lillie was born March 11, 1933 to Effie McGee Riggins and Harry B. Riggins. Lillie loved to visit her grandparents' home place where she spent as much time as she could and where we continue to go today in Buffalo Valley. Lillie received her Master's of Education and continued in the education field until her death.

Lillie was preceded in death by her parents and her grandparents, Lillie and John McGee from Buffalo Valley.

She is survived by her 3 children; Dana Doyle, Patrick Doyle, and Kelly Doyle Lewis; 6 grandchildren, Brandy, Justin, Collin, Caitlyn, Devin and Ian and 1 great-grandchild, Tristin.

James Edward 'Topy' Laymon

James Edward "Topy" Laymon, 62, of Lexington passed away March 29, 2009, after a short battle with cancer. James was born August 27, 1946, in Bennington to Charlie Jefferson and Thelma Beames Layman.

James grew up and attended school in Bokchito. He worked as a farm laborer. He lived and worked as a butcher in Oklahoma City and later moved to Durant where he drove a delivery truck. While at Taft, James studied and became an ordained minister of the gospel. James was a proud member of the Choctaw Tribe.

James was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Michael Leroy Layman, and Charles David Laymon, and sister Joann Layman Wallace.

James is survived by 2 sons; James Alton Laymon of Lawton, and Timothy James Laymon-Farrell; 2 grandchildren; Ashley Elaine Laymon Ford and husband Matt, and Alton Ryan Laymon; great-grandchild, K'Lei Dawn Ford all of Durant; 4 sisters, Wilma Latrelle Layman Boudreau, Shirley Lavonna Layman Wallace and husband, Ricky all of Durant, Phyllis Charline Layman Goar of Oklahoma City, and Jackie Louise Layman Heinz and husband, Duane of Bismarck, North Dakota; 2 brothers, Gary Lynn Layman, and Kenneth Eugene Laymon both of Durant, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



Dorothy Melton

Dorothy Melton, 77, of Talihina passed away on April 25, 2009, at Eastern Oklahoma Medical Center in Poteau. She was born in Talihina on February 7, 1932, to the late Aaron and Auda Anderson Johnico.

Dorothy enjoyed fishing, watching OU football, and the Talihina Tigers football and basketball. She enjoyed having a garden and she was a good cook. She was a member of Goodspring United Methodist Church in Lenox. She married Harrison Melton Sr. on November 22, 1951.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; son, Gerald Melton; brothers, Eugene and Daniel Johnico, and sister, Melba Colbert.

Dorothy is survived by five sons, Benjamin Jr. and Brenda Melton of Talihina, Lyman and Debra Melton Braggs, Melvin and Sherry Melton of Heavener, Michael and Lisa Melton of Talihina, Jason and Nelda Melton of Clewiston, Florida; four daughter, Brenda Kay Melton, Lynnidean King both of Talihina, Etta Louise and Robert Vanriette of Muse, and Annette and Eddie Smith of Talihina; two sisters, Delores and Walter Dye of Talihina and Ruby Sexton of Poteau; 21 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Eual Wayne Akins

Eual Wayne Akins, 68, passed away April 8, 2009, at El Reno. He was born on February 26, 1941, at Octavia to Cecil Akins and Virginia Akins Moore.

He attended Chilocco Indian School and Jones Academy. He served in the U.S. Army with two tours in Seoul and South Korea. Wayne was Choctaw and his occupation was a diecaster.

Wayne is preceded in death by his parents; a brother, James Charles Spear; a niece, Christina Rice; a grandniece, Casey Brannon and grandnephew, Seven Kenney.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Akins; sons, Tony and James Akins, Timothy Duty of El Reno, Bill Duty of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; daughters, Jeanette Houchin of El Reno, Wendy and husband, Terry Scott of Muskogee and a son, Anthony Akins and wife, Peggy of Talequah. His brothers and sisters are Wanda Akins Mellor of Dallas, Harold Akins and wife, Helen of Ardmore, Carol Rice and husband, Jimmy of Pittsburg, Joyce Church and husband, Cecil of Pittsburg, Doug Spear and wife, Mary of Greenville, Ron Spear of Dallas, Texas, Nancy Hailey and husband, Mike of Shawnee, Stan Moore and stepdad, Walter Moore both of Pittsburg; grandchildren, Lisa and Anthony Moss of Walters, Oklahoma, Terry Jr. and Ashley Scott of Muskogee; great-grandchildren, Ian Scott, Ava Scott, Mia Scott and Taylor Scott.



Sam C. 'Jack' Palmer

Sam C. "Jack" Palmer, 74, passed away March 30, 2009, in Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was born and reared in the Preston community of Kemper County where he made his home most of his life. He was a member of Pleasant Springs Presbyterian Church. Mr. Palmer was a retired heavy equipment operator. He served in the Air National Guard 153rd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Photo Jet.

He was preceded in death by an infant son, William C. Palmer I; parents, Sam P. and Ruby Cook Palmer; grandmother, Peggy Garland Cook of Garland, Okla.; brothers, James H. Palmer and Henry W. Palmer; and sister, Peggy P. Johnson.

Survivors include daughters, Gay Flint and Wanda Haggard both of Philadelphia; son, William C. Palmer II; sister, Barbara Ann Durant both of Preston; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Melvin 'Punkin' Alberson

Melvin "Punkin" Alberson of McAlester passed away on April 22, 2009, in McAlester at the age of 85. He was born February 26, 1924, to Edmond and Ida O'Eddy Alberson in Arch.

He grew up in the Jack Fork Mountains and attended school at Jones Academy. During WWII, Punkin served in the U.S. Army. In 1954, he married Lucille Billee. He was a member of the Choctaw Nation and the Double Springs Baptist Church. He worked for the U.S. Naval Depot for 44 years.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Lucille; parents; son, Monte Ray Alberson; daughter, Virginia Lou Alberson; sisters, Flora Ann Alberson and Classie Wallen; brother, Edwin Alberson; two infant brothers; and niece, Evelyn Prock.

He is survived by his daughters; Victoria Lane Alberson of McAlester and Sherry Foster and husband Jon of McAlester; grandchildren, Michele Ramsey, Mike Ramsey, Jon Paul Alberson, Sherman Christopher Alberson, Randy Wayne Alberson, Wes Robert Alberson and wife Amber, Kimberly Rae Alberson; great-grandchildren, Brayden Alberson, Nayukpa Ramsey, Paganli Ramsey, Kyliegh Wooldridge, Emily, Riley Rae, Corey and Avrey Alberson and Marley Smith; daughter-in-law, Mary Katherine Alberson of McAlester and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.



Norma Lou Wallen

Norma Lou Wallen, 67, of Talihina passed away March 31, 2009, at Sparks Regional Medical Center, Fort Smith, Arkansas. Norma was born in Talihina, July 19, 1941, to the late Isom and Lena Thompson Wallen

She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Norma enjoyed being with her family, and loved family gatherings. She worked as a cook at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center.

Norma is survived by her sisters, Wilma Smith and Delores Davis of Talihina; 13 nieces, Gina Moon of Heavener, Marsha Jones of Gravitt, Arkansas, Lisa James of Heavener, Koree Wallen of Talihina, Kristina Johnson of Whitesboro, Jackie James of Broken Bow, Glenda Jo McCurtain of Talihina, Beverly Morris of Talihina, Cathy Sharp of Talihina, Sharla McCurtain of Talihina, Nicole Swearingen of Buffalo Valley, Raeanne Bowman of Whitesboro, and Michele Lewis of Duncan; seven nephews, Brian Wallen of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, Brandon Hensley, Steve Wallen and Marion McCurtain Jr. all of Talihina, Harry Hensley of Heavener and John and Cameron Swearingen both of Buffalo Valley; numerous great nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

Benjamin 'Ben' Gipson

Benjamin Gipson, 67, of Skiatook passed away on April 7, 2009, at the Frances Streitel Senior Care Center in Collinsville. Ben was born June 14, 1941, in Broken Bow, to Robert and Lucinda Ward Gipson.

He grew up and received his education in Broken Bow, graduating in 1960. Ben was employed as a diesel mechanic for various different companies, worked for Creek Nation Casino, and for Wal-Mart in Glenpool.

Ben was preceded in death by his mother, father, three brothers, two sisters and one daughter.

Ben was survived by his wife, Judith of the home whom he first met in 1992 and have been together since 1995; nine children, Rhonda Gayle Hill, Den Gibson Jr., Kristi Hooper, Lance and Jeff Gibson all of Sapulpa, Cary Gotcher of Broken Arrow, Rex Gotcher of Kesterton, Indiana, Erick Gotcher of Plainview, Texas and Toni Kehler of Skiatook; three brothers; three sisters; 22 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.



OBITUARIES

Elvie Irene Wilson Cordier

Elvie Irene Wilson Cordier, 76, of Linn, Missouri, passed away on January 7, 2009, at St. Mary's Health Center in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Elvie was born on August 6, 1932, in Smithville to the late Sherman C. and Deanie McGee Wilson. In 1952 Elvie was united in marriage to Wayne Donald Cordier Sr. in Kansas City, Missouri.

Elvie attended Wheelock Academy and continued her education at Haskell in Lawrence, Kansas, where she became a telephone operator.

Elvie loved God and accepted him as her Lord and Savior. She was proud to be a full-blood Choctaw and a member of the Choctaw Nation. She was a loving wife and mother. Anytime you spent time with her you always had a fun, loving, good time.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father; husband; son, Wayne Donald Cordier Jr.; four sisters, Betty Noahubbi, Oatle Samuel, Nellie Wilson, Ruthie Wilson and stepmother, Ruth Wilson.

Survivors included son Frank Pierre Cordier and fiancé Debbie of Bend, Oregon; four daughters, Shelley and Steve Gentsch of San Juan Capistrano, California, Kay and Charlie Hertzog of Linn Missouri, Brenda and Don Smith of Salem, Oregon, and Barbara Alcaraz of Aumsville, Oregon; six sisters, Artie Cooper, Hazel Battice, Carol Schmitt, Virginia Grant, Cora Johnson, Rozetta Carney and one brother Sherman Hughes Wilson all of Oklahoma; 14 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, several nieces, nephews and cousins.



Wilmer Williams

Wilmer Williams, 92, passed away March 12, 2009, of Haven, Kansas, at Golden Plains Health Care Center, Hutchinson, Kansas. He was born February 14, 1917, in Hinkley Texas, the son of Isham and Pearl Williams.

On December 26, 1941, he married Katherine Spittler at El Reno. She passed away on September 7, 1993.

He attended school at Jones Academy and Haskell.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He worked as an electrician and was a member of the IBEW #661, Hutchinson.

Survivors include son Robert of Haven, and one daughter, Linda Brown of Greeley, Colorado; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great grandchildren.

Stephen D. Aaron

Stephen D. Aaron, 81, of Broken Bow, passed away on January 16, 2009. He was born March 19, 1927, to Alexander Aaron and Agnes (Tims) Aaron.

Stephen liked to work on all kinds of small engines and cars. He liked to play the piano and to visit his family and friends.

Stephen was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mamie Aaron; two sisters, Josephine Colbert and Esther Lewis Bohannon and brother, Joel Aaron.

He is survived by his sister, Joanna Taylor and husband R. C. of Wright City; several nieces, nephews, and a very special friend and cousin, Silas Tims.

Evelyn Edmonds Farrell

Evelyn Edmonds Farrell, 87, of Stillwater passed away April 3, 2009, in Stillwater. She was born May 10, 1921, in Gowen to Edmond Chunn Edmonds and Charlotte Hampton Edmonds, and grew up in Southeastern Oklahoma. She graduated from Wilburton High School and attended Eastern Oklahoma A&M College.

She married William Elbert Farrell on May 22, 1941, in Wilburton. She held clerical jobs at the Oklahoma House of Representatives, the U.S. Army Ammunition Depot, and an abstracting company. She preferred working from her home and for many years provided quality child care and custom seamstress services. After living in a number of Oklahoma communities, the family settled in Stillwater in 1967.

Evelyn was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and aunt. All three children graduated from OSU, and she remained an avid fan of OSU football and basketball until her death. She was a collector of figurines and decorative eggs and liked nothing better than sharing a cup of coffee with good friends. Evelyn was proud of the Choctaw heritage passed on to her and to her brothers and sister by their mother.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, two sisters, and two brothers. She is survived by two sons, Don Edmonds Farrell and his wife Carmen, of Castle Rock, Colorado, and Jon William Farrell and his wife Kris, of Duncanville, Texas; and one daughter, Rebecca Farrell, of Stillwater, Oklahoma; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. In addition, she is survived by one brother, Richard Edmonds, of Mustang, Oklahoma, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



Mahali Soraya Watson

Mahali Soraya Watson, 3, of Oklahoma City, passed away November 3, 2006, at the Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center. She was born May 23, 2003, in Talihina, to Sarah Watson.

Mahali enjoyed watching "Dora The Explorer," and playing with dolls. She loved playing with her cousin, Emma.

Survivors are her mother, Sarah Watson, grandparents, Rita and Randall Watson, Broken Bow; uncles, Gary Watson, Shawn Watson, Lucian Watson, all of Broken Bow; aunts, Dana Gobellan and Winena Watson both of Broken Bow, and a very special cousin Emaline "Tee Tee" Watson of Broken Bow.

Erma Jean Lewis

Erma Jean Lewis passed away March 8, 2009. She started her life at the Redeeming Home of Love in Oklahoma City. She was later placed with the Lewis family and lived in the Antlers area until later when she moved to Oklahoma City where she raised her four children.

She is survived by four children, Kevin Williams of Boulder, Colorado, Darla Williams of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Candace Murray and Donna Murray of Oklahoma City. She also left six grandchildren; Steven Halsey-Williams and Catherine Heman-Williams of Boulder, Colorado, Jennifer Tiger and Sampson Patty of Oklahoma City, Marco Del Moral of Norman, and Christa Williams of Mustang. She also leaves one great-granddaughter, Mailiya Williams of Albuquerque. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.



Gordon 'Buddy' W. Wilson Jr.

Gordon "Buddy" W. Wilson Jr. passed away November 25, 2008, at the Claremore Veterans Center. He was born January 4, 1926, in Tulsa to Natalie Darl and Gordon W. Wilson Sr. He was married to Anita Jo Wilson. Buddy graduated from Tulsa Central High School, was a World War II Naval veteran of the South Pacific, a 32nd degree Mason, husband, Dad, brother, Uncle Bud, and Granddad. He was loved by all his family and friends and will be missed.

Buddy was formerly vice president of operations for Squaw Transit Company for 26 years. Buddy loved fishing and hunting in Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming. He drove stock cars at the fairgrounds in the 1950's, and stock drag cars at Tulsa International Raceway in the 1960's. Since the early 70's Buddy was an avid and loyal TU football fan and a season ticket holder until his health would no longer allow him to attend. Buddy also loved helping his family, friends and even those he didn't know. It was not uncommon for him to leave the warmth of his house in the winter to help a stranded relative or friend. Buddy was cared for in the last few months of his life by the loving and caring staff of the Claremore Veterans Center.

Buddy, was preceded in death by his mother and father; mother-in-law, Delma McKenna; sisters, Patricia Morrison and Bettye Sue Rucker; sons, Jeffery Scott Wilson and David Michael Wilson.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years; sons, Gordon W. Wilson III (Brenda), John Bradford Wilson, Richard Alan Wilson (Jamie), Paul Douglas Wilson (Melinda), and Peter Donald Wilson (Marisha); brother, Mickey D. Wilson (Ann); sister-in-law, Billie Kline; 24 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; three nieces and three nephews.

Rev. James Burns

Rev. James Burns, 81, of Amarillo, Texas, passed away March 15, 2009. He was born Nov. 24, 1927, in Oklahoma to Jess and Grace Burns.

He grew up in Wilburton, moving to Amarillo in the late '40s and married Janice Hilton on March 30, 1959, in Clarksville, Arkansas. He was a cement contractor and pastured San Jacinto Full Gospel Church for 32 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Louise Shelpam.

Survivors include his wife; son, Kevin Burns and wife Lisa of Amarillo; two daughters Jamie Burgess and Kelly Kidd, both of Amarillo; three brothers, Charles Burns and Donnie Burns both Amarillo, Jude Burns of Denton; sister, Betty Thomas of Wilburton; and four grandchildren, Erin Marler and Eric Burgess, both of Panama, Oklahoma, and Lauren Kidd and Cheyenne Burns, both of Amarillo.

Charles 'Circles' Randle Hunter

Charles "Circles" Randle Hunter, 52, passed away on February 17, 2009, in Coalgate. Charles was born May 8, 1956, in Coalgate to Hershel and Florence Elizabeth Miller Hunter. He was a descendant of original enrollee Catherine Emilie Gardner Fulton.

He attended Tupelo school, worked oil field and construction and was of the Baptist faith. He married Cynthia Batchelor and later married Nelda Baker.

He was preceded in death by his sister Carol Jean Hunter.

He is survived by his mother Elizabeth Harkins of Tupelo; father, Hershel Hunter of Tupelo; sister, Sandra Owens and husband Jimmy; brothers, James Hunter and wife Gayla, all of Tupelo, and Jaye Harkins and wife Sharon of Ada; along with numerous other relatives, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and many friends.



Lucian Watson

Lucian Watson, 25, of Broken Bow passed away October 30, 2007, OSU Medical Center, Tulsa. He was born November 23, 1981, in Ada, the son of Randall and Rita Lewis Watson.

Lucian was a member of Good News Fellowship Church in Broken Bow. He enjoyed playing video games, watching movies, playing the guitar, hanging out with his best friend and cousin, Mark Baker, and spending time with his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Vivian Noah; maternal grandparents, Randall and Emmaline Lewis, and a niece, Mahali Watson.

Survivors are his parents, of the home; paternal grandfather, Creson Watson of Idabel; two brothers, Gary and Shawn Watson of Broken Bow; three sisters, Dana Gobellan and Winema Watson both of Broken Bow and Sarah Kowena and her husband Joseph of Oklahoma City; niece, Emmaline Watson; nephew, Jeremiah Watson; several aunts, uncles and friends.

John Wayne Bedingfield Sr.

John Wayne Bedingfield Sr. passed away on December 13, 2008.

John was born May 14, 1931, to Samuel P. and Sophronia Bedingfield in Capital City. At 15, he met his lifelong love, Shirley Maxine Holcomb, in Chickasha. They were married on March 7, 1952, and celebrated 56 wonderful years and 3 children together.

John was proud to serve as a Boatswain's Mate aboard the naval destroyer, USS Wedderburn, during the Korean War. After his military service, John worked in the oil industry, starting as a rough neck and working his way up to a drilling foreman and consultant for numerous companies, ending with Chevron. His knowledge and no nonsense attitude on the job earned respect in the industry. He especially enjoyed taking part in the pioneering of drilling on the North Slope of Alaska and geothermal drilling in Dixie Valley, Nevada. He made many lifelong friends in the course of his career. John, otherwise known as Big Daddy or Poppy, taught his children by example. He raised us in a Christian home, Southern Baptist to be precise, and always taught us to do the right thing and take responsibility, no matter what. He believed in living his life in a way that allowed him to go to sleep at night with a clear conscience. Poppy always put his family before himself, often making career sacrifices for our benefit. He had a wonderful and a soft heart, but also a tough exterior. He was a man's man! John was proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation.

John was preceded in death by his father and mother.

Survivors include his wife; children and their spouses, Sam and Dell Bedingfield, John and Kay Bedingfield, and Cheryl and Scott Bender; grandchildren Joshua and Brock Bedingfield, Aerin and Johnny Bedingfield, Justine and Jadriane Bender, David and wife, Monica and Jenna Watts; brother, Daniel Bedingfield of Los Angeles, and sister, Mila Bennett of Chickasha, and their families. He especially enjoyed his great-grandchildren, Colby, Jaylee, Cale, Connor, Brock Jr., Tiffany, Todd, and Casey. He will also be missed by his many sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. We will miss you Poppy!

Ruby Jean White Tail Feather

Ruby Jean White Tail Feather, 77, of Poplar, Montana, passed away April 8, 2009, at Trinity Hospital in Wolf Point, Montana.

Ruby was born on June 22, 1931, to Alec and Rhoda Jefferson Wilson at Ringold. She married Raymond White Tail Feather on July 10, 1953, in Poplar and they had two children, Walter and Mary Ann, and lived in the Poplar community for 43 years.

Ruby earned an Associate of Arts Degree, a Nursing Degree on January 23, 1967. She was a registered nurse in San Jose, California, and also a surgical nurse, and for the past 38 years owned and operated the Dakota Trading Post in Poplar. As a pastor's wife, Ruby was active in church work and church building. She was instrumental in helping to build First Baptist Church in Poplar, Morning Star Baptist Church in Wolf Point, Gospel Light Mission in Poplar and Pahin Wakpa in Frazer, Montana. She was the pianist and taught Sunday school at Morning Star Baptist Church. Ruby was also a seamstress, loved gardening, reading, attending Bible Studies and witnessing for Christ. Her favorite Bible verse was Psalm 100. Ruby was a full-blood Choctaw member of the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma.

Ruby was preceded in death by her parents, and three brothers, Roy, Ray and Nathan Wilson.

She is survived by her husband; son, Walter A. (Cassie) White Tail Feather of Poplar; daughter, Mary Ann White Tail Feather of Poplar; two brothers, Carlos (Lottie Ann) Wilson of Valiant and Jonathan (Faye) Wilson of Ringold; two sisters, Cora Faye (Keene) Khort of Wrangle, Alaska and Theresa Wilson of California, and two grandchildren, Aries White Tail Feather and Alec Alexander of Poplar.



Arlin James Tisho

Arlin James Tisho, 25, of Broken Bow passed away October 25, 2007, at the OSU Medical Center, Tulsa. He was born September 3, 1982, in Idabel, the son of Isaac W. Tisho and Doris E. Lewis Jones.

Arlin loved being outdoors and enjoyed playing fast pitch softball and many other sports. He loved spending time with his family and his many friends.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Mary Tisho; sister, Angela Rae and cousin, Allen Tisho.

Survivors are his father, Isaac Wesley Tisho, Broken Bow; mother and stepfather, Doris and Kenneth Jones, Oklahoma City; paternal grandfather, Newman G. Tisho, Broken Bow; daughter, Maleah Shae Tisho, Broken Bow; brother, Isaac "Ike" Tisho Jr., and sister-in-law Lemanda Jean, Broken Bow; three nieces, Lindsey Rose Battiest of Idabel, Alexia Nicole Tisho and Cecelia Analece Tisho both of Broken Bow; three nephews, Kysar Quentin Lewis and Kyle Blake Battiest of Idabel and Braiden Shane Tisho of Broken Bow; four aunts, Jeanetta and husband Richard Jackson, Kathy Theis, Regina Flanagan all of Broken Bow and Thelma Smith, Oklahoma City; nine uncles, Matt and Ronald Lewis of Broken Bow, Nathan Lewis of Idabel, Daniel Lewis of Oklahoma City, Buck, Wayne and Rico Tisho all of Broken Bow, Kenneth Tisho of Shawnee and Rusty Tisho of Glenpool; a host of cousins and friends

Vincent David 'Dave' Darrough

Vincent David "Dave" Darrough, 89, of Tulsa passed away January 9, 2008. He was born October 4, 1918, in Wister to Blant David Darrough and Nettie Free Darrough, an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation.

When he was a young boy he traveled with his Dad, who installed electrical high lines. After his father was injured in an electrical accident he went to live with his mother in Fairfax. He attended Pawnee Indian School where he was the only blue-eyed Indian boy. He was always proud of his Indian heritage. Dave was baptized while attending Pawnee Indian School. He was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Tulsa, and in more recent years attended Bixby Church of Christ with his son, Jack, where he loved to sing the old time gospel songs. As a young adult he lived in Fairfax, where he met Lola Mae VanDeusen, who became his first wife. He drove a taxicab there and his customers would pay him to cruise up and down the streets. He had many interesting stories of the things he saw and experienced in Fairfax. After he married and started a family, he worked in construction helping to build the Wister Dam and the dam in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He moved to Tulsa in 1951 and started work in the air-conditioning industry. In 1955, he started his own air-conditioning and heating company, now in its 53rd year of business. He was one of the first contractors to install central air-conditioning units in residential houses in Tulsa. He took great pride in his company and helped celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2005.

He was an avid football fan and especially enjoyed watching his grandsons play. He loved traveling, singing, fishing, and spending time with his family and his family loved spending time with him. He loved to make people laugh and bring joy to their hearts. He never met a stranger; he was friendly to all he met. He will be missed by many.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Lola Mae; second wife, Ella; daughter, Linda Joann Murphy; grandson, Michael David Murphy; great-granddaughter, Jodee Mikael Murphy, sister and brother-in-law Liz and George Corbin.

His survivors are son; Jack and wife, Karren Darrough of Tulsa; daughters, Kathy and husband Rev. Sam Davis of Coweta, LaDonna Wilkinson of Tulsa; grandchildren, Cindy Darrough, Kristina Davis, Rona Murphy, Sandi Donnell and Alisha Wilkinson; great-grandchildren, Philly Irvin, Dalton Irvin, Payton Donnell and Tanner Donnell; sister, Doris Jenkins, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Orietta Hegtveldt

Orietta Hegtveldt passed away March 31, 2009, in Seattle, Washington. She was born March 3, 1925, in Stigler. She was a longtime resident of Lakewood, Washington.

Orietta spent her career working for the U.S. Civil Service, mainly for the Air Force. She retired after spending her last years as a court reporter on McChord Air Force Base, Tacoma, Washington.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Hegtveldt; her brother Einer Art Martin; and sister, Betty Jo Martin.

She is survived by four children, Clifford Cuellar Jr., Ellen McKinney, Marty Bluewater, and Juanita Winegar; seven grandchildren, Lynn and Kenneth Stagg, Seven and Tawnee McKinney, and Jennifer, Marty and Michael Winegar; and two great-grandchildren, Taw-Cre-Nee and Madrona Redhawk.



Durant resort construction



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Executive Director of Gaming Janie Dillard and Assistant Chief Gary Batton sign the beam at the Topping Out Ceremony for the Durant casino expansion. Hundreds of construction workers also placed their names on the beam before it was hoisted into place.



Brent and Lauri Parsons, owners of Builders Steel Inc., Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, and Jason Merida, Executive Director of Construction, stand below the last beam lifted to the top of construction. A U.S. flag flies on one end with a Choctaw flag on the other, and an evergreen tree in the middle of the structure to symbolize growth and bring luck.

The Casino and Resort in Durant is expanding with a 12-story Choctaw Hotel dominating the skyline. The new 300,000-sq.ft. casino will be at the ground level. The 110,000-square-foot hotel will have 330 rooms. Construction is 35 percent complete with an anticipated opening date in early 2010.



Sullivan Insurance supports CNO Scholarship Advisement Program



Programs like the CNO's Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) are enriched by the support of the nation's friends according to CNO Chief Gregory E. Pyle. Few programs have had a more consistent supporter than the CNO's Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) has had in John Sullivan, owner of the Sullivan Insurance Agency - www.johnsullivaninsurance.com.

John Sullivan has been doing business with the CNO for more than 25 years. "Over that period of time I have become very good friends with many people who I work with in the nation. That includes a man I met some years ago who also had an insurance background," says Sullivan. "He was Greg Pyle. We worked well together and became good friends," he adds.

Several years ago Sullivan, an Economics graduate from Westminster College in Fulton Missouri (MBA at Oklahoma City University), created a scholarship to help CNO students obtain an education at Sullivan's alma mater. Sullivan named his scholarship after Eliphalet Nott Wright, a CNO member who attended Westminster College from 1872-74 and later became a prominent CNO physician and political leader a little more than a century ago. Sullivan's E.N. Wright scholarship covers expenses including room, board, books and tuition. Applicants must be members of the CNO and have a minimum ACT score of 25 and participate in Native American activities.

More recently Sullivan has once again donated to the SAP Program. Sullivan has helped fund The Scholarship Advisement Program News, SAP's online newsletter that is sent monthly via email to CNO students, parents and stakeholders enrolled in the SAP Program. SAP News keeps stakeholders abreast of new opportunities and quickly changing programs according to Jo McDaniel, SAP Program Director. The 1,500-name SAP News email list is constantly growing, says McDaniel. Subscription is free by simply contacting the SAP program or via the web site www.choctawnation-sap.com.

"I want to extend a special thanks to John Sullivan," says McDaniel. "This is exactly the kind of help that grows our program, and helps our kids get valuable scholarships. SAP can also assist others who wish to provide financial aid to CNO students."

John Sullivan Insurance has offices in Durant, Edmond and Ardmore, Oklahoma and is licensed in 14 states. The agency was started in 1946 by Sullivan's father and John Sullivan took over the business in 1974. The company has 15 employees, most with professional education and designation.



McAlester birthday bash honors Chief Pyle, Councilman Pate

A birthday celebration was held April 14 at the Expo Center in McAlester for Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Councilman Bob Pate. Hundreds attended to show their appreciation of the two and to wish them a happy birthday.

The honorees are sporting new OU caps in the picture at top left with Leroy Sealey.

The photo at bottom left shows a small portion of the tribal, city, county and state officials who attended as well as many family and friends.



Simpson to be inducted into OCA Hall of Fame

By Jeff Call, CoachesAid.com



When Alan Simpson arrived at Byng in 1981, it wasn't long before he put the boys basketball program on the map. Simpson won state championships in 1986 and 1992 and made nine state tournament appearances during an impressive 21-year run as the coach of the Pirate basketball team.

Simpson found out his peers in the coaching business were paying attention. He will be one of 10 current and former coaches inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame in late July. The induction ceremony and dinner will be held on July 26 in Tulsa and will be among the highlights of All-State week.

"I'm very humbled," Simpson said. "I look at the icons who are in the Hall of Fame, men like Bill Koller and Marvin Stokes and Elvan George, and it's great to be compared to people like that. I'm completely honored and surprised. It's one of those deals that you don't really want to think about until it happens."

Simpson moved from Hugo High School, his alma mater, to Byng in 1981, a year after his Hugo squad had upset the top-ranked Pirates in the playoffs. Over the next two-plus decades, he built Byng boys basketball into one of the state's elite programs.

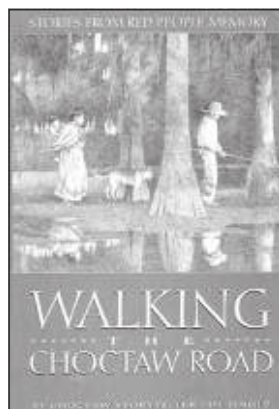
His first year at Byng was definitely one of his most memorable seasons. "The first year I was at Byng, we didn't have any starters back," Simpson recalled. "We were 7-11 in January, and they wanted to buy out my contract, but I didn't have change for a 20, so I stayed and we went to the state tournament. We lost to Millwood, and that was a special season."

While many successful coaches hopped from school to school in their pursuit of success, Simpson felt right at home at Byng, where he finally stepped away from the boys basketball program following the 2002 season. "I've never been a coach who jumped around and chased talent," Simpson explained. "Byng is a special place, and the people here are special. A lot of really good coaches don't get the recognition they deserve because they're not in the right place. A lot of this has to do with me being around good people — good coaches and good players."

Alan Simpson, 59, has completed 36 years of teaching and coaching. He is the son of Ike and Bobbie Simpson of Hugo and has an older brother, Mike, who lives in Durant. He and wife Kim have been married for 32 years and have two children, Chelsea and Zac.

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or phone 580-924-8280, ext. 2408

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