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CHOCTAW NATION

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savings accounts called Individual Development Accounts in which the participants save earned income for the purchase of a home, business capitalization or to attend higher education or training and have access to financial literacy education and training on money management and consumer issues.







# Choctaw Tribe helps many communities

*From the Desk of  
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

Oklahoma tribes will be receiving a portion of the “stimulus plan” to help complete road and transportation projects currently on the drawing board. The Choctaw Transportation Program works with the State Department of Transportation (DOT) and county commissioners to spend the dollars more efficiently. The Choctaw Nation resurfaces close to 40 miles of road each and every year, sometimes providing asphaltting for streets in towns such as Wright City, Quinton and Talihina, and often assisting with county and state projects in partnership agreements.

One of the newest joint ventures with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is the Blocker bridge project, combining tribal roads money with state roads and bridges money. This particular bridge, used daily by personal automobiles and by school buses, is a dangerous crossing over Eufaula Lake. The tribe has also invested \$1 million in replacing the Long Creek bridge west of Lefflore School.

Other recent transportation improvements made possible by the Choctaw Nation include helping place a signal light in Broken Bow and lighting or parking lots at schools in Talihina, Boswell, Broken Bow, Hartshorne and Coalgate. One project in the immediate future is resurfacing Wilburton city streets.

Our tribe donates heavily to schools, churches, fire and police departments, county sheriff offices, as well as individuals. The philosophy of “what is good for Choctaw Nation is good for our communities” has proven to be true.

The Choctaw Nation has a commitment to improving health for all Oklahomans, and has partnered with the state to make Oklahoma a better place to live. Adonationof\$1million from Choctaw Nation went to the Oklahoma Diabetes Center. The tribe has a continuing partnership with OU Medical Center to provide the best possible care for our patients with diabetes. Choctaw Nation has built a new hospital and several health clinics totally with tribal dollars. Thanks to revenues from tribal businesses, there are clinics in McAlester,

Idabel, Stigler, Broken Bow and Atoka, a Diabetes Wellness Center and a 37-bed hospital in Talihina. The tribe also offers health services at clinics in Poteau and Hugo.

In times of emergencies, the Choctaw Nation is among the first to offer relief. The huge ice storm in McAlester in 2007 was a great example of what the tribe will do for communities. Three hot meals each day were served for weeks at the Choctaw Community Center, which was also the shelter for families displaced from their home while the electricity was out. A huge generator was brought in to run the gas pumps at the Choctaw Travel Station so that emergency vehicles could fill up with fuel during this emergency. Crews of workers were all over town with chain saws clearing roads and driveways. Supplies of water, blankets, food and batteries were passed out and hot meals were delivered to the homebound. All of these kindnesses were done with a generous heart, free of charge to the individuals who benefitted. The tribe has proven willing to help in times of need, offering similar services in other weather emergencies

such as ice storms and tornado ravages.

Climate related emergencies are just a small part of what the tribe does in disasters. Families who have burn-outs are helped on an individual basis, and there is a special program funded with tribal dollars that provides assistance all over the state for tribal members in crisis.

The Choctaw Nation has a very long list of helpful services to communities:

Thirty-three Tribal Police are cross-deputized with law enforcement agencies across the Choctaw Nation boundaries.

Choctaw firefighters travel across the United States to fight wildland fires.

Active military personnel are supported through care packages and special gifts to meet special needs, regardless of their ethnicity. Because of the tremendous work done for the members of the Guard and Reserve, the Choctaw Nation is the first and only tribe ever to be awarded the United States Freedom Award.

WIC is provided through the Choctaw Nation to any race of person meeting the income



guidelines who lives in the tribal boundaries.

The Choctaw Nation has 14 head start centers that are open to children of any ethnic group.

Education programs include about 5,000 college scholarships a year, a Career Development program, Scholarship Advisement program and an academic reward program for grades 2-12. There is also a Choctaw Language program that is an accredited course in “foreign” language at public schools, colleges and universities.

Seventeen community centers built by the Choctaw Nation offer free lunches to Native American senior citizens.

The vision statement of the Choctaw Nation is “To achieve healthy, successful, productive, and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud Nation of Choctaws.” The many services and programs of the tribe, such as the education scholarships, head starts, career development, health clinics and job placement opportunities go a long way toward helping tribal members meet this vision.

## Language is important link for tribe

*From the Desk of  
Assistant Chief  
Gary Batton*

It was an honor to attend a recent graduation of Choctaw Language students in Stigler. Hearing of the success of the School of Choctaw Language in preserving our culture and language inspired me. Every person who enrolls in a class to become skilled in Choctaw is an important link in the strengthening of our tribe. I have often heard that if language is lost, then heritage is lost. We should all applaud the Chief and Council’s funding and support of the Choctaw Language Program.

There are 44 sites of Choctaw classes currently being held, as well as the Internet classes that are available, free of charge, to anyone in the world who wishes to log in. Many public schools offer accredited courses of Choctaw curriculum as a “foreign language,” and community classes are held in each of the 12 districts inside the tribal boundaries as well as classes in towns outside of Southeastern Oklahoma, such as Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Muskogee and Norman. Out-of-state sites include Anchorage, Alaska, Vallejo and South Gate, California.

There are 86 certified community teachers at this time, with 46 of them actively teach-



ing classes this semester. Community classes bring people together cohesively. Students and teachers eat potluck meals together on class nights, celebrate students’ birthdays, and encourage one another in all aspects of life. There is a lot of fun and humor in Choctaw classes.

Resource people who have expertise on heritage such as beadwork and storytelling are brought into the classes to enhance culture. They share their knowledge with a varied age group, since students range from elementary school to elderly. Graduations are a huge event, with diplomas signed by Chief Pyle and the teacher, photos taken, cheers from the crowd and congratulations all around.

Classes are free. There are four levels from beginning to fluent. Call 580-924-8280, ext. 2340, for more information on enrolling in a community class.

## The Blood is the life, power of the Gospel

Happy Easter! Easter is the commemoration of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

My favorite Choctaw hymn on Easter is Choctaw Hymn No. 47. It is entitled “Christ Bled for Me.” This hymn describes the Gospel. I translate only the first verse of three verses: “Jesus, my Savior Who gives life, was nailed to the Cross, He suffered as He hung there, He shed His Blood, He died in my place.”

This hymn is precious for those who know Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin.

The Bible is a Book of Blood. We soon learn that as we read the Bible. And it is only the Blood that gives life to our teaching and power to the Word of God. The Blood is the life and power of the Gospel. The Gospel is Good News described in Paul’s letter in First Corinthians 15:1-4.

The Bible claims for itself it is a “Living” Book, and the only living book in the world, and is able to give life to those who will believe with their hearts what it teaches. We read in Hebrews 4:12:

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

The word translated from the Greek word “quick” in this verse, is “living” or “alive.” The Word of God is a Living Word, wholly distinct from all other books for just one reason, that is, it contains blood circulating through every page and in every verse.

Without the blood in the Bible it would be like any other book, for the Bible plainly teaches that the life is in the Blood. This truth is given to us in Leviticus 17:11:

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

Life, God said, is in the blood of the flesh, so that there can be no life without the blood. No man ever dies until his blood stops circulating.

All this is true of a physical body and it points to a greater spiritual truth. The Church of Jesus Christ is called His body, and born-again believers, “are members of His Body” and members one of another.

In this body Jesus Christ is the head and all believers are the members. These members are related by the blood of Jesus Christ. The life of each member depends on His blood and is dependent for life, nourishment, cleansing and growth

### Chaplain’s Corner



**Rev. Bertram Bobb  
Tribal Chaplain**

upon the blood of the Lamb of God for “the Life is in the Blood.”

These members may be separated in the body like the hands and feet. They may differ in color as the white members – the teeth. As the black members – the hair or whatever the color of hair may be.

So it is with the body of Christ the Church. They may differ in other ways but all who have trusted Jesus Christ, the head of the body, are brothers by blood – the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When Adam ate of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, he sinned, he died. He died spiritually and eventually he died physically. Since life is in the blood, when man sinned, something happened to the blood. Sin affected the blood of man.

For this reason sin is not in the flesh, but in the blood. And flesh can only be called “sinful flesh” because it is nourished and fed and sustained by sinful blood. And sin is transmitted through the blood to all of Adam’s descendants. “For in that one sinned all have sinned.” You remember how Adam and Eve after their sin had tried to make fig leaf aprons to cover their shame. That is the history of man, instead of realizing that sin needs not covering but to be taken away, man has ever after been trying to save himself by the work of his own hands.

Adam and Eve failed and man will always fail when they try to save themselves by the work of their own hands. After Adam and Eve’s sin and failure to cover their sin by their own works God came to them and we read in Genesis 3:21: “Unto Adam also and unto his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”

In this first record of sacrifice, we have the whole story of the blood. Notice three

things about this act of God which was a preview of His Plan of Salvation.

First, it must be God’s work and not man’s. God made the coats of skins. Salvation must be all of the Lord.

Second, salvation must be by death of an innocent substitute. Since these coats were made of skins an animal had to die to provide the covering a substitute.

Third, it must be the shedding of blood, for the animal must be killed to give its skin and in this sacrifice the blood must be shed. Without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanse us from all sin.

The teaching of blood shed in this first sacrifice runs like a scarlet line all through the Bible. Today we see on the Cross God’s perfect Lamb of which all the other lambs sacrificed were a picture and a type and we see the One who met the three conditions of the Father.

Have you seen the uselessness of saving yourself by your own efforts, your own good works?

In closing, I ask “Have you been washed in the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ?” Repent, means to turn around, change your mind and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. You can pray “Lord, I realize I am a sinner, I trust Jesus Christ as my Savior.” Will you do that?

Thank you for your prayers. Pray for our Nations and for its leaders. Pray for our brave men and women in our Armed forces.

### Native American Bible Academy

**Spring 2009  
Class Schedule**

April 6-10  
“Il John”  
Rev. James Harper, Ph.D.

...  
April 13-17  
“How to Teach the Bible”  
The Rev. Rick Gilbertson

...  
April 20-24  
“How to Minister to Children”  
The Rev. Ray Chitwood

...  
April 27-May 1  
“Studies on the Tabernacle”  
The Rev. Len Rascher, Ph.D.

...  
Director: Dr. Len Rascher  
P.O. Box 812  
Ringold OK 74754  
580-981-7024

**Commemorative  
Trail of Tears Walk  
T-shirt  
Order Form**  
T-shirts are yellow.  
Sizes available are:  
**Children – (2-4), (6-8),  
(10-12) and (14-16)**  
**Adults – Small, Medium,  
Large, X-Large, 2X, and 3X**



Item	Size	Quantity	Total Price
T-shirt – \$10 ea.	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Cap – \$10 ea.			
_____			
Name _____			
Address _____			
City/State/Zip _____			
Phone Number _____			
E-Mail _____			

Price includes postage and handling. Limited supply of Children and 3X sizes.  
To order, send payment (NO PERSONAL CHECKS) with completed form to:

**Trail of Tears Walk T-shirt  
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702-1210**



# Keep balance in your life

Balance your life. The more colorful your meals are, the more balanced they are! COLOR yourself healthy! Remember: the GOOD “stuff” (vitamins, minerals and nutrients) is the MOST COLORFUL!

Eat a rainbow! Balance your LIFE!

Get more fruits and veggies in your diet:

1. Add chopped apple, massed banana, or fresh berries to pancakes.
2. When peaches are in season, enjoy them sliced on your cereal.
3. Add lettuce and tomato to a sandwich.
4. Add fresh broccoli or fresh spinach leaves to a salad.
5. Add cut-up raw vegetables or a piece of fruit to everyone’s lunch.
6. Add berries, sliced banana or any fruit to hot or cold cereal.
7. Eat fruits and veggies for snacks. Baby carrots make a great snack.

## WIC

8. Eat at least five fruits and vegetables every day! The more the better!

9. Eating fast food? Order a side salad instead of French fries.

10. Eat some watermelon. Enjoy melon while it is in season.
11. Try applesauce on pancakes instead of syrup!
12. Top a baked potato with salsa instead of sour cream.
13. Try cooked pumpkin or winter squash for dinner.
14. Have a salad for lunch or dinner.
15. Have fresh fruit for dessert or a snack. Try something new!
16. Grill vegetables along with meat when you cook out!
17. Fix a milk and fruit shake for a snack.
18. Bake sweet potatoes for dinner.
19. Fix tuna salad for lunch. Add grated carrot or chopped apple.
10. Visit a farmers market. Try a new vegetable or fruit.

Courtesy of Pathfinder Publications

# Daddy knows all about baby

Getting to know your little baby is one of the most rewarding, satisfying experiences you will ever have.

A dad who knows his baby well has learned:

- How to feed, diaper and burp his baby.
- Baby’s favorite way to be held and comforted.
- How to stay calm when his baby is screaming and help baby calm down.

- Signs that his baby is getting sleepy or hungry.
- How to give his baby a warm, soothing bath.
- How to make a bottle for baby and warm it just right.
- Baby’s daily routine.
- The right way to strap baby in his car seat.
- How to recognize that baby is sick and when to call the doctor.

- To keep unsafe things out of baby’s reach.
- What new skills his baby has learned.
- How to talk to his baby and help him to be the smartest baby of all.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### ANTLERS

Market open weekdays April 2-27, except for:  
April 1: Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed).  
April 8: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed).  
April 10 and April 24: Holidays.  
Closed April 28, 29, 30 for inventory.

### DURANT

Market open weekdays: April 1-27, except for:  
April 10 and April 24: Holidays.  
Closed April 28, 29, 30 for inventory.

### McALESTER

Market open weekdays April 1-27, except for:  
April 3: Stigler 9-12 (market closed).  
April 10 and April 24: Holidays.  
Closed April 28, 29, 30 for inventory.

### POTEAU

Market open weekdays: April 1-27, except for:  
April 10 and April 24: Holidays.  
Closed April 28, 29, 30 for inventory.

### CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

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

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

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

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

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

**Bethel:** Choctaw Community Building


**Broken Bow:** Choctaw Family Investment Center

**Idabel:** Choctaw Community Center

**Smithville:** Choctaw Community Center

**Stigler:** Choctaw Community Center

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## Choctaw Nation WIC

### WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

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

### 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.

This article was written by Ashley Norris, AFL technician.

## It’s ‘Eat Right’ Month!

The month of March is National Nutrition Month, brought to us by the American Dietetic Association. The theme for this year’s National Nutrition Month is “Eat Right.”

One of the goals for the American Dietetic Association is to combat childhood obesity. In order to help our children to combat obesity we need to help them to learn and live healthy lifestyles.

By eating healthy meals as a family, parents are acting as positive role models to help children see nutritious foods as a way of life. Another way to help children to eat healthier foods is to have nutritious foods on hand for snacks.

Here are some healthy snack ideas for you and your children to enjoy!

1. Peel and slice a banana. Cover the banana with your favorite fat-free fruit flavored yogurt. Top with cereal, i.e., Cheereos, Special K or Rice Crispy, etc. Then freeze.
2. Spread celery sticks with peanut butter. Top with raisins or dried cranberries.
3. Stuff a whole-wheat pita

pocket with part skim mozzarella and slices of apple. Add a dash of cinnamon for some kick.

4. Top fat-free vanilla yogurt with crunchy granola and then sprinkle with blueberries, raspberries, blackberries or strawberries.
  5. Mini pizza: Toast an English muffin, drizzle with pizza sauce and sprinkle with part skim mozzarella cheese.
  6. Dip baby carrots, strawberries or apple slices in fat-free vanilla yogurt.
  7. Dip pita chips or reduced fat Triscuits in hummus.
  8. Dip graham crackers in cinnamon applesauce, fat-free yogurt – any flavor – or peanut butter.
- By keeping these nutritious foods on hand in place of high fat/high sugary items we can all live healthier lifestyles and combat obesity.
- I hope you enjoy these fun and healthy snacks. For more information, contact Erin Adams, RD, LD, Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center, One Choctaw Way, Talihina, OK 74571; 1-800-349-7026, ext. 6959.

### Sustaining our traditions, our people, our earth



### Get unplugged

Unplug any electrical appliance you’re not using to save more than 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide and a good chunk of cash. “Energy vampires” that should be disconnected when not in use include phone chargers, computers, TVs, DVRs, hair dryers and microwaves.

© The Green Life

### Are you ready to purchase a new home?

The first step in the home-buying process is attending a **Homebuyer Education Class**

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

**Poteau Community Center**  
April 7 - 4:30 p.m.

**Spiro Community Center**  
April 14 - 4:30 p.m.

**Stigler Community Center**  
April 16 - 4:30 p.m.

## NURSERY NEWS

### Tey Auna Samaya Flourney



Tey Auna Samaya Flourney was born September 11, 2008, the daughter of Crystal Carter and Milton Flourney. She is the granddaughter of Cynthia and Fulton Flourney, the great-granddaughter of Pauline Wilson, and the great-great-granddaughter of Carolyn Thompson of Paris, Texas. She weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces and measured 19 inches long. She was welcomed to the family with a big party that was enjoyed by all.

### Benjamin Marion McBride



Rebekah and Tony McBride of Yukon would like to announce the birth of their son, Benjamin Marion McBride, who was born on October 28, 2008, at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City. Ben was 7 pounds 10 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long. Grandparents are Wayne and Carolyn Sims of Mustang, Tonja Miller of Stillwater, and Marc and Linda Simpson of Hugo. Great-grandparents are the late Marion and Ethel Hamill (Thompson) of Grant, Ben McBride of Crane, Missouri, and Shirley Simpson and the late John Simpson of Hugo.

### Reese Anne Erwin



Denise and Brad Erwin of Kyle, Texas, would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Reese Anne Erwin. She was born January 26, 2009, at Seton Medical Center in Austin, Texas. Reese weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces and measured 20 inches long. She is the granddaughter of Emerson and Helen Bernice Burris Willis of Temple, Texas, and Marlen and Johnny Erwin of New Orleans, Louisiana.

### Aiden John Parraz



Aiden John Parraz was welcomed in the world December 23, 2008, in Olympia, Washington, weighing 7 pounds 5 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches. Proud parents Amber E. Moore and John D. Parraz celebrated Christmas Day by bringing home their first son. Aiden has one sister, Evelyn Y. Parraz. His grandparents are Sheri M. Moore and the late Charles J. Moore of Fresno, California, and Yvonne N. Parraz and John C. Parraz of Silverdale, Washington. He is the great-grandson of Connie Parraz, also of Fresno, who will be celebrating her 90th birthday in July.



CHR Director Norma Austin assists Nolia community members.



CHR Bea Parker and Oma Clay check Andrea Sisk’s blood sugar.

### Outreach holds community meetings

Choctaw Nation Outreach Services hosted two successful community meetings during the month of February. The program’s goal is to provide the Choctaw people with resources and information about the services that are available throughout the Choctaw Nation Outreach Department. They are dedicated to reaching out to the Choctaw people. Outreach meetings will continue to be offered at various locations within the 10 1/2 counties. If you are interested in having a community meeting in your area, please contact Randy Hammons, executive director, at 877-285-6893.



CHRs Bea Parker and Elaine Justice provide health checks for Rose Gilmore and Edna Taylor at Grace Indian Baptist Church, Antlers.



CHR Bea Parker and Maria Moore.



# PEOPLE YOU KNOW

## Keener and Sadoff wed

It was a beautiful day when Jason Keener and Dawn Sadoff were united in holy matrimony by Pastor Donnie Day on November 3, 2008. The marriage ceremony was held at One Creek Valley Church, Divide. Jason's best man was longtime friend Todd Collins and his wife, Sandy Collins, was Dawn's maid of honor. A reception for the couple was held at the church with family and friends attending. The couple plans to reside in Antlers after their honeymoon. God bless you both from Aunt Sophia.



## Happy second birthday

Kaili Harrison of Bakersfield, California, turned two on October 24, 2008. She is the daughter of Victoria Harrison and granddaughter of Bill and Theresa Harrison. Even at 2 years old, she is proud of her Choctaw heritage and loves singing traditional chants and dancing the snake dance. Kaili attends preschool where she loves to sing her ABC's, count from 1 to 20 in English and Spanish and hang out with all her friends. Happy birthday!



## Happy 18th birthday

Mary turned 18 on January 24. Happy birthday Rabbit from Grandma, Mom, brothers, sister, Dad, Uncle and Auntie.



## Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Kallan Maxwell, who will be 12 this March. He is pictured playing stickball at Wheelock Academy. He is in the sixth grade at Hugo Middle School, where he plays in the band. Kallan is the son of Zach Maxwell of Hugo and Laura Chancey of Houston, Texas, and the grandson of Steve Maxwell of Austin, Texas, Debbie and Jim Chancey of Houston and the late Karol Carnes. Kallan and his siblings, Anoli, Miko and A.J., will welcome a new baby sister this year!



## Family celebrates birthday



Happy birthday to Dixie Keltner on February 8 and to her nephew, Brad Keltner, on February 11.



## Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Jacquie Rechberg of Jacksonville, Oregon. Her Dad, Joel Harkins of Orange, California, wants to wish his daughter a very special birthday on February 24. Jacquie is the granddaughter of the late George E. Harkins and the great-granddaughter of original enrollee William Joel Harkins. May God bless my special daughter on her special day.



## Look who's three

Happy third birthday to Drake Logan Stubbs on March 1 from his Grams. Drake is the apple of his family's eye and makes everyone smile. We thank God for Drake. Drake's parents are Amber Hagger of Fort Towson and J.D. Stubbs of Boswell; grandparents, "Grams" Becky Peters of Hugo and John and Rhoda Stubbs of Boswell; and great-grandparents are Betty Shawhart of Fort Towson, Mary Wall and John and Georgia Stubbs, all of Boswell; two uncles; two aunts and many cousins and friends.



## Happy birthday

Jacob Ferguson, son of Westley Ferguson and Dennis Ferguson, celebrated his third birthday on January 30.



## Happy second birthday

Look who turned two on February 9. Happy birthday Ella Erwin from Reese, Mom, Dad, Migi, Pops, Granny, Papa Ben and all your aunts, uncles and your cousins.



## Happy 24th birthday

Bradley Joe Raymond turned 24 on February 2. Happy birthday from his parents, Wahneeta Franklin and Johnny Raymond; sisters, Stephanie and Andrea; grandparents, Ben and Virginia Franklin of Idabel; and his great-grandparents, Tobias and the late Rosa Williston and the late Pearl Mae Louis. He has two nieces who also wish him a happy birthday. Also a happy 18th birthday to Bradley's cousin, Colby Mitchell of Valliant on February 11. His parents are Inese and Shawn Mitchell.



## Happy birthday Papa

Chub would like to wish his papa a happy 50th birthday. His birthday was on February 3.



## Happy 95th birthday

District 7 Councilman Jack Austin and the Wright City Choctaw Seniors presented Joe Wesley with a birthday cake for his 95th birthday. Happy birthday Joe!



## Happy 60th anniversary!

Wishes for a very happy 60th wedding anniversary are sent to Bill and Louise Amos of Idabel from their kids and grandkids. Bill and Louise were married March 26, 1949.



## Happy first birthday

Gunner Paul Wilkins had his first birthday on January 21. Gunner lives in Danville, Arkansas, with his parents, Paul and Susan, and big brother, Lawson. His Poppa Joe is Joel Camp of Mead.



## Lawson goes hunting

Lawson Paul Wilkins killed his first deer on November 1, 2008. It was an 8-point buck. He was hunting with his dad on their lease. He was very excited. We are very proud of him. He lives in Danville, Arkansas, with his parents, Paul and Susan, and big brother, Gunner. His Poppa Joe is Joel Camp of Mead.



## Congratulations

Maureen McIntyre Lesky, daughter of Charles L. "Beaver" McIntyre and Gwendolyn Querdibitty McIntyre, graduated from New Mexico State University on December 13, 2008, with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction. She is a former elementary school teacher. In 2004, she was selected to participate in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher program. She currently works as an Education Research Analyst for the Bureau of Indian Education in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ms. Lesky and the McIntyre family would like to express their appreciation to Chief Pyle and the Choctaw tribe for their financial assistance and support. With the help of the Choctaw Tribal Scholarship Program, Ms. Lesky has been able to achieve her goal of helping American Indian students through research and education.



## Congratulations

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Department of Higher Education would like to recognize and congratulate Crystal Nicole Smith-Burchfield on her recent December 2008 graduation from Texas A&M University-Commerce with a bachelor's of science.



## Happy first birthday

Linda Knight wishes her granddaughter, Hannah MaKinsley Knight, a happy first birthday on January 25. She celebrated with family and friends. She is the daughter of Ricky and Stacey Knight of Hugo and the granddaughter of Lee and Linda Knight of Hugo.



## Congratulations

Alex Purdy, a sophomore at Yukon High School, was selected as First Chair in the 2009 Oklahoma All-State Band. Alex is the son of Saundra Hendon Arnold; grandson of Glenna Minter and great-grandson of Ruth Powers Doan. Alex has played tuba for four years and has won numerous superior medals in competitions. He has been in CODA District honor band for four years and has sat first chair in every honor band that selected him. Alex will also be representing Oklahoma as a member of the Oklahoma Music Ambassadors who will tour Europe for 16 days performing in numerous countries.



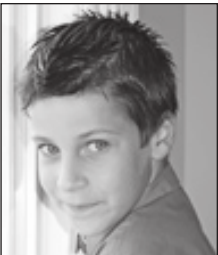
## Happy fifth birthday

Happy birthday to Wade Robert Tigner on March 15. He will be 5. Happy birthday from his aunts, Susan, Debra and Lisa, and from Grandpa Joe.



## Happy ninth birthday

Happy birthday to Mark Paul Reed. He will be turning 9 on April 3. Happy ninth birthday from his parents, Matt and Lisa Reed; sister, Morgan; aunts, Susan and Debra and Grandpa Joe.



## Look who's one!

Zakk Layne Gilmore turns 1 on March 16. He is the son of Rakelle Bond and Ryandal Gilmore and the brother of Christiaan and Zoe. His grandparents are Dawn Bond and Stephen Bowling, Tresa and Shawn Bailey, and Randy Gilmore; great-grandparents, Geneva and Charles Baze, and Dorothy and Bob Gilmore; and great-great-grandfather, Walter Holland.



## 61st anniversary

Willis and Betty Vandagriff celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on March 8. The couple were married in 1948 in Van Buren, Arkansas. They have five children; Keith, Larry, Annette, Sharon and Teresa; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. The Vandagriffs have lived in Sulphur since 1955.



## Hearn/Hallmark to wed

Waddel Hearn Jr. and Leslie Brooke Hallmark of Durant are proud to announce their engagement and upcoming wedding on April 4 at Pettijohn Springs Christian Camp in Madill. Leslie is the daughter of Kirk Hallmark and Lecia Rushing, both of Madill. Her grandparents are Curtis and Lillie Hallmark and Jane and the late Aubrey Morgan, all of Madill. Leslie is a 2001 graduate of Madill High School and has a bachelor's degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She is employed with the Social Security Administration office.



Waddel is the son of Connie Zalenski. His grandparents are David and Beverly Johnston of Sherman and Edith Manning of Shawnee. Waddel is a 2002 graduate of Durant High School. He is employed by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

## Hudson and Paulk wed

Cara Rena Hudson and Casey Reece Paulk were married on June 14, 2008. The couple was married at the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks. Cara is the daughter of Tommy and Wylene LeFlore Hudson of Skiatook, the granddaughter of Bobbie Hudson and the late Floyd Hudson of Skiatook, and the late Jewel LeFlore of Muskogee, and the great-granddaughter of the late Susan Thomas of Keota. The bride is a 1995 graduate of Skiatook High School. She has a bachelor's and master's degree in education from Northeastern State University and is currently a school counselor and cheerleading coach for Skiatook Public Schools.



Casey is the son of David and Debbie Paulk of Blanchard. The groom is a 2001 graduate of Blanchard High School. Casey has a bachelor's degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and is currently working towards his master's degree in sports management. He works for Eastern Oklahoma Orthopedic Center as an athletic trainer and is the head athletic trainer for Broken Arrow Public Schools.

The couple honeymooned in Florida and the Bahamas. They currently reside in Skiatook.

## Happy birthday

Happy birthday to my little Choctaw grandchildren, Chazz and Ashley Taylor and Jessie Lewis. Happy birthday from Grandma Bonnie and Running Bear.



## Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Beautiful Hope Nacole Valeri who turned the "Big One" on January 9 and Adam Blake Betsey who turned the "Big Two" on February 21. Their parents are Jennifer Betsey of Coalgate and Christopher Valeri of Atoka. Their grandparents are Tina Betsey of Coalgate and Robert Nix of Sherman, Texas, and also Wendy Valeri of Atoka. Their great-grandfather was Adam Betsy of the Atoka area. Happy birthday babies from Momma.



## Happy seventh birthday

Happy birthday wishes to Cody Rodriguez, who celebrates his seventh birthday on March 19. He has a sister, Ashley, who celebrated her third birthday on November 17, 2008. He also has a baby brother, Angel, who was born on October 9, 2008. Their parents are Alice and Carlos Rodriguez of Waco and they are the grandchildren of George and Daisy Watson of Watson.



## Happy birthday

The children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren would like to wish a happy birthday to Emerson B. Willis on March 24 and Helen B. Burris-Willis on March 20.



## Happy 36th birthday

Happy birthday to my brother, Manuel Carterby, pictured with son Cody. He turned 36 on February 26. Happy birthday from his family; Michele, Chris and Mother Cealis of Ardmore; son, Cody, and wife, Belinda, of Corsicana, Texas.



## Happy 12th birthday

On February 25, Austin Lovewell turned a Big 12. His grandmother, brother and sister would like to wish Austin a great day. Birthday wishes from Grandma, Carey and Savannah Lovewell.





# Youth Advisory Board members attend annual conference

On January 16-18 about 150 YAB members attended the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board annual conference at Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine, Texas. Students were from communities within the Choctaw Nation which included Antlers, Clayton, Hugo, Talihina, McAlester, Durant, Atoka, Coalgate, Bennington, Boswell, Monroe, Hodgen, Soper, Broken Bow, Bethel, Battiest, Stigler, Howe, Heavener and Red Oak,

Eddie Slowikowski, motivational speaker, officially kicked off the retreat on January 17 and spoke to the YAB'sters about the "Power of One." Slowikowski told everyone that when you visualize your dream, you can believe it's possible.

Departments presenting programs to the Youth Advisory Board included Choctaw Nation Scholarship Advisement, Choctaw Nation Project Safe, Choctaw Nation Career Development, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Choctaw Nation Lifetime Legacy, and Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles.

A YAB Chapter representatives meeting was held the afternoon of January 17 to



discuss YAB requirements and details like Code of Ethics, By-Laws, Meeting Protocol, and Letter of Commitment. Pre-election was held and Chelsea Wells, chair, asked if any YAB members wanted to run for executive office. They must give a short speech about why they want the position.

After the meeting was adjourned, YAB'sters were allotted free time in which they could swim at the water park, play MagiQuest, eat, sleep, or just hang out with fellow YAB members.

Clint Cannon, Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles, opened the meeting on January 18 with a sermon entitled "Finding Out and Living Out Your Potential." Cannon spoke to everyone about how we all have potential and we are all meant to live for so much more.

After the presentation of "Bullying" by Project Safe, YAB chapter representatives gave presentations over what their group has done in their own respected communities. Elections were then held for the Executive Committee and the

new officers were announced: Chair, Preston Wells of Hugo; Vice Chair, Faith Mincher of Atoka; Secretary, Jessie Blackwell of Heavener.

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board's Annual retreat was a great success! Great Wolf Lodge was a great host and will likely be considered again for YAB events. A special thanks to Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles, Project Safe, and Lifetime Legacy for sponsoring the retreat and all the keynote speakers. It was an amazing experience!



Past YAB Chair, Chelsea Wells passes the gavel to the current chair, Preston Wells, pictured with Jessie Blackwell, secretary, and Faith Mincher, vice chair. The ribbons represent each YAB chapter and were placed on the gavel at the beginning of the meeting by each YAB chapter representative.



Atoka's YAB members at conference.



Howe, Heavener, Red Oak, Stigler and McAlester Youth Advisory Board members attending the annual conference at Great Wolf Lodge.



Soper, Boswell and Bennington YAB students attending the annual conference.



Talihina, Antlers and Clayton YAB members use the stairs as a perfect photo op at the annual conference.

## Mason earns prestigious Eagle Scout rank



Tyler Lawrence Mason, a sophomore at Crowder High, earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout on August 28. Tyler, of BSA Troop 441 Krebs, was honored in a special "Voice of the Eagle"

Ceremony on November 15 at the Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, north of McAlester. During the ceremony, Tyler was recognized by letters of congratulations from Governor Brad Henry, U.S. Congressman John Sullivan, and by proclamations from State Senator Richard Lerblance and State Representative Terry Harrison.

Tyler began his scouting career in Tiger Cubs and continued his climb to the top of the mountain to earn the highest rank bestowed by the Boy Scouts of America. He planned and carried out his eagle service project by designing and

leading his fellow scouts and assistants in the construction of a pavilion on the grounds of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Krebs, the troop's chartered organization. The pavilion will be used for years to come by the church's members and by the community.

Tyler is also a member of the BSA Order of the Arrow and a member of the Choctaw Nation. Tyler is the son of Kim and Chester Mason of McAlester, the grandson of Karen and Everett Lytle of McAlester and the late Roger Stone, and the grandson of the late Robert R. and Jennie Billely Mason.



Hugo, Broken Bow, Bethel and Battiest students attending the YAB annual conference at Great Wolf Lodge.



Durant's YAB students attending the annual conference at Great Wolf Lodge.



## YAB speaks with Coalgate City Council

Members of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board recently gave a power-point presentation to the Coalgate City Council concerning a Social Host Ordinance. YAB asked the council to consider passing a local ordinance that would hold adults accountable if hosting a place for minors to consume alcohol, including beer. Pictured are Faith Mincher, Lecie Murray, Carrie Clem, Melinah Lowe, Shane Orr, Dakota Elkins, Chesna Henry, Easton Crow.





### Spring Air locates in Durant

The Spring Air Company, one of the world’s largest mattress manufacturing companies, is opening a state-of-the-art production center in the Durant Industrial Park. The new plant is expected to employ up to 300 and be operational by the summer of 2009. Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilman Ted Dosh and Assistant Chief Gary Batton joined in the celebratory unveiling of the company’s logo on February 13. They presented Spring Air CEO Steve Cumbow with a Choctaw pipe hatchet as a welcoming gift to the area.



### Head Start takes field trip

The Durant Choctaw Nation Head Start recently took a field trip to the Bryan County Fairgrounds where they were treated to a presentation of “Critter Tales.” Jennifer Lance and her brother, Charlie Gosset, introduced the children to their animal friends, “Fluffy” the chinchilla, “Charlie” the skunk, an owl named “Destiny,” two sugar gliders, and a hedgedog named “Cactus.” Pictured above, students touch artifacts on the “touch-table” during the program. Jennifer Lance, owner of Critter Tales Inc., presents programs that promote awareness of wildlife and conservation through exciting, educational programs. Project LEARN!, an Early Reading First Grant written by the Choctaw Nation, coordinated and sponsored the event and the Bryan County OSU Extension Office donated the facility for the presentation.



### Rachelle chosen first-runner up

A. Rachelle DiNardo recently competed in the Miss McAlester pageant, part of the Miss America pageant system. This Jones Academy senior became first runner up and receives \$600 in cash scholarship. Colleges supporting the pageant are offering additional scholarships.

Last November Rachelle entered Miss Teen Oklahoma USA as Miss Teen Choctaw. Representing the Choctaw Tribe and Jones Academy Indian Boarding School, she made the top 10 and was granted a scholarship of \$37,000 to an out-of-state college. Her

cheering squad includes her sponsors, Ray DiNardo and Choctaw Councilman Bob Pate. Previous pageant winnings include Junior Miss Choctaw Nation 2006-07; Miss Choctaw Owa Chito 2007-08, extended title 2008-09; Miss Azalea Festival 2008-09; and fashion model for Arrowhead Mall commercial. Grandparents are Ray and Jean DiNardo and Pauline and the late R. Chuckluck. Her Great-Grandpa is Leroy Ward.

## Census Awareness Week comes to Oklahoma

The week of March 30 to April 3 marks Census Awareness week in the Choctaw Nation and across the country. The U.S. Census Bureau has organized events all over the United States to let people know that the 2010 Decennial Census is only one year away.

“A year may seem a long way off, but the U.S. Census is the largest non-military mobilization in the country,” said Dennis Johnson, director of the Kansas City Regional Office, which includes Oklahoma and five other states. “There’s a lot of preparation and awareness that goes into conducting a head count of this size.”

Johnson said Oklahomans can expect to start seeing the U.S. Census Bureau at community events and festivals leading up to the spring of 2010 when census forms will be mailed to every household in the United States and its territories.

“We are looking to com-

United States  
**Census**  
**2010**

munity members to carry the message that the census is important,”

Johnson said. “More than \$300 billion in federal spending is distributed to state and local communities every year based on census data. That money includes spending for schools, public health, roads and disaster relief.

“It is important for every community that leaders have the most complete and accurate data with which to make these funding decisions. The Decennial Census gives residents the power to stand and be counted.”

Johnson said that hundreds of organizations have joined in partnership to support and promote the 2010 Census effort.

For more information on partnership opportunities for you and your organization contact the Tulsa local census office at 918-877-3422 and ask to speak to a partnership specialist today.

## Expanded tax break available for 2009 first-time homebuyers

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that taxpayers who qualify for the first-time homebuyer credit and purchase a home this year before December 1 have a special option available for claiming the tax credit either on their 2008 tax returns due April 15 or on their 2009 tax returns next year.

Qualifying taxpayers who buy a home this year before December 1 can get up to \$8,000, or \$4,000 for married filing separately.

“For first-time homebuyers this year, this special feature can put money in their pockets right now rather than waiting another year to claim the tax credit,” said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. “This important change gives qualifying homebuyers cash they do not have to pay back.”

The IRS has posted a revised version of Form 5405, First-Time Homebuyer Credit, on IRS.gov. The revised form incorporates provisions from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The instructions to the revised Form 5405 provide additional information on who can and cannot claim the credit, income limitations and repayment of the credit.

This year, qualifying taxpayers who buy a home before December 1, 2009, can

claim the credit on either their 2008 or 2009 tax returns. They do not have to repay the credit, provided the home remains their main home for 36 months after the purchase date. They can claim 10 percent of the purchase price up to \$8,000, or \$4,000 for married individuals filing separately.

The amount of the credit begins to phase out for taxpayers whose adjusted gross income is more than \$75,000, or \$150,000 for joint filers.

For purposes of the credit, you are considered to be a first-time homebuyer if you, and your spouse if you are married, did not own any other main home during the three-year period ending on the date of purchase.

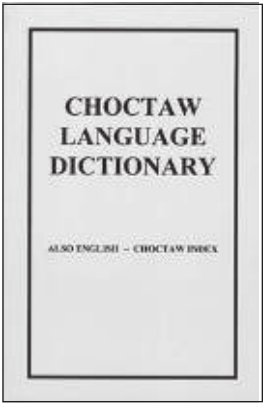
The IRS also alerted taxpayers that the new law does not affect people who purchased a home after April 8, 2008, and on or before December 31, 2008.

For these taxpayers who are claiming the credit on their 2008 tax returns, the maximum credit remains 10 percent of the purchase price, up to \$7,500, or \$3,750 for married individuals filing separately.

In addition, the credit for these 2008 purchases must be repaid in 15 equal installments over 15 years, beginning with the 2010 tax year.

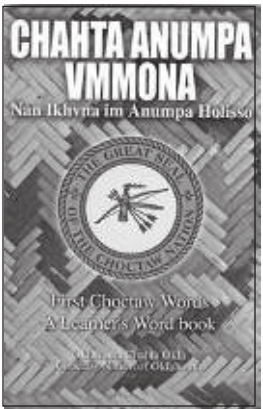
March  
SPECIALS

## CHOCTAW NATION BOOK STORE



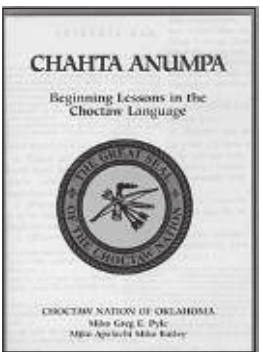
ENGLISH-CHOCTAW LANGUAGE INTRO: A DICTIONARY OF THE CHOCTAW LANGUAGE

Rev. Cyrus Byington  
611 pages  
8.5” tall x 5.5” wide  
Price: \$25



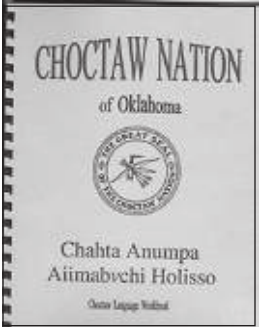
Choctaw Definer CHAHTA ANUMPA VMMONA FIRST WORDS A LEARNER'S WORD BOOK Most common 1500 words used in the Choctaw Language.

Price: \$10



Set of 2-CD BEGINNING LESSONS OF THE CHOCTAW LANGUAGE The Choctaw Language Program presents a beginning course aimed at learners of all levels. These CDs are designed to help the student imitate correct sounds.

Price: \$15



CHOCTAW LANGUAGE WORKBOOK Chahta Anumpa A'imabvchi is a workbook made for the beginning students of the Choctaw Language. Copyright 1999. 50 Pages, 11” tall by 8/5” wide

Price: \$10

Please send check or money order to  
Choctaw Nation Book Store  
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702-1210  
www.choctawstore.com • www.choctawnation.com

For VISA or MasterCard orders  
call toll-free 888-932-9199.  
Book Store hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sold as a set.  
Shipping – Set of four books \$6 shipping

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION							
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
A P R I L     2 0 0 9				1 Durant 10 am-2 pm	2	3 Idabel 10 am-12 pm Broken Bow 1-3 p.m.	4
	5	6 Antlers by appt only	7 Poteau 11:30 am-1 pm	8 McAlester 10 am-2 pm Stigler by appt only	9	10 Holiday  Good Friday	11
	12  Easter	13	14 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	15	16	17	18
	19 Crowder by appt only	20	21	22 Wright City by appt only Bethel by appt only	23	24 Holiday	25
	26	27	28 Wilburton 10:30 am-1:30 pm	29 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	30		

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

# choctawstore.com

## FEATURE PRODUCT OF THE MONTH!

### Choctaw Nation Mousepads

**\$3.50 each**

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





14th Annual  
**Okla Chahta Gathering**  
May 2-3, 2009 on the Bakersfield College Practice Field in Bakersfield, California

NEW HOTEL!  
The Doubletree  
Bakersfield

3100 Camino Del Rio Court  
Bakersfield, CA 93308  
1-661-323-7111  
A block of rooms has been reserved for April 30, 2009 - May 4, 2009. The special room rate will be available until April 15, 2009, or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first.

*Special plans include*

- Visiting with Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and Tribal Council
- Choctaw Storyteller Tim Tingle
- Tribal Membership/CDIB Program
  - Basketmaking demo/class
  - Make and Take for the kids
    - Choctaw ponies
  - Young Warriors Society

For more information, feel free to contact  
Okla Chahta Clan of CA  
P.O. Box 80862, Bakersfield, CA 93380  
661-393-OKLA • [oklachahta@igalaxy.net](mailto:oklachahta@igalaxy.net)

Camping and other information can be found at [www.oklachahta.org](http://www.oklachahta.org)  
**Pre-Register for the 14th Annual Gathering**  
Please pre-register for the FREE Saturday meal.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a tribal member? \_\_\_\_\_

Those who are attending with you:  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Adult/teen/child \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal? \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Adult/teen/child \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal? \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Adult/teen/child \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal? \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Adult/teen/child \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal? \_\_\_\_\_

– Camping on grounds of gathering –  
Sign up now – limited number of spaces – they go fast – request early for a space!  
**YOU MUST REGISTER & PAY IN ADVANCE**  
If you cancel you must do so 2 weeks prior to get a refund so we can open to someone else.  
I wish to register for camping:  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

RV Camping (size and type) \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 – Friday or Saturday or \$15 for Friday and Saturday. Fee is per unit charge. All camping is dry – no electricity.

Please make checks payable to  
  
Okla Chahta Clan of CA Inc. and mail to P.O. Box 80862, Bakersfield, CA 93380  
All camping is for self-contained only. No hookups – No electricity.



**Ticket sales benefit autism research**  
The Choctaw Nation Employee Teambuilding Committee is focusing on raising money to assist autism research. Recent ticket sales raised \$1,008 for the effort. Chief Greg Pyle presented the winner of the drawing, Darlene Noahubi, with a silver Choctaw Seal necklace and a Choctaw Nation coffee mug, both donated by Curtis Jewelers of Durant.  
Fundraisers have also included monthly bake sales and Valentine cookie bouquets. During January and February, the committee has raised close to \$2,000.

## NRCS announces opportunity to apply for EQIP Conservation Funds

Oklahoma NRCS State Conservationist Ron Hilliard has announced an extension of the EQIP ranking cutoff period to April 1, 2009. This will expand the opportunity for producers to apply for conservation payments under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for fiscal year 2009. New rules have been under development for the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, or 2008 Farm Bill. With the publication of the interim final rule, 2009 program activities can now be initiated.

On January 15, Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced changes to EQIP, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's largest conservation program for working agricultural lands. USDA published an interim final rule containing the statutory changes to EQIP in the Federal Register.

USDA-NRCS administers EQIP, a voluntary conservation program that provides technical assistance and payments to help crop and livestock producers address environmental concerns through conservation improvements on agricultural and non-industrial private forest lands. Farmers and ranchers can use EQIP to farm in an environmentally friendly manner and still meet their agricultural production goals. It is designed to produce significant environmental benefits to the public, such as improved soil, water and air quality; and enhanced wildlife habitat. In addition, farmers and ranchers use EQIP to meet federal, state, tribal and local environmental regulations.

Under the amended EQIP, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as well as beginning and limited resource producers are authorized to receive payments of up to 90 percent of the costs of installing or implementing a conservation practice.

The 2008 Farm Bill reduced the overall payment limitation from \$450,000 to \$300,000 for a six-year period, except for environmentally significant projects.

In order to be eligible to participate in EQIP, an applicant must be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, have an interest in the agricultural operation, and have control of the land for the proposed contract period. If the applicant is a tenant, written concurrence of the landowner is required to apply a structural conservation practice. Legal entities that apply for the program must provide a list of all members of the legal entity and embedded entities along with members' percentage interest in the operation. Potential applicants are encouraged to update their USDA eligibility at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) prior to making application for EQIP. EQIP applications will not be ranked or considered for funding until the applicant meets all eligibility requirements.

"We are accepting applications for participation in the EQIP program on a continuous basis," adds Ann Colyer, Tribal Resource Conservationist. "However, only applications received by April 1, 2009, will be ranked and considered during this expanded selection period." Evaluated applications will be grouped and selected for funding from a list of high priority applications until the funding allocation is obligated." Unfunded applications will be maintained for future funding consideration if the applicant chooses to remain on the waiting list. Successful applicants with high priority resource concerns will be contacted to develop contracts to obligate the current funding allocation. Producers that have high priority resource concerns and are interested in participation in EQIP may apply at any time at a local NRCS office located in the county you reside. Anyone who has a grazing lease with Choctaw Nation may also apply. You can contact Ann Colyer, Tribal Resource Conservationist at 580-924-8280, ext. 5134, or e-mail [ann.colyer@ok.usda.gov](mailto:ann.colyer@ok.usda.gov).

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

**Choctaw Nation Forestry**

The Choctaw Nation Forestry Program will be giving pack tests to all men and women in good physical condition who are interested in becoming a Wildland Firefighter.  
**May 7, 2009  
8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**  
**Talihina High School Track  
Talihina, Oklahoma**  
Requirements: CDIB, 18 years old, have a physical before pack test is taken (physical forms can be picked up at the Forestry Office or call to have one mailed or faxed to you.)  
If you have any questions you may contact Kendall Carpenter or Raymond Ludlow at **918-567-2321**.



## Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing

Everyone is welcome to attend the Frazier Memorial Gospel Singing which will be held March 27 at the Crowder Choctaw Center, 707 Bond St. in Crowder, Oklahoma. Emcee is Curtis Kinney. Concession is available.

## Inspirational Art Show

The second annual Religious/Inspirational Art Show will be held March 27-29 at Poteau First United Methodist Church. The first event was a public juried show in which 20 artists attended and displayed over 70 pieces of art. An invitation is extended to all Oklahoma Nations to participate in this year's show. If anyone is interested in showing their art, please contact Keith Thomas at 918-647-3491 or Charles Meek at 918-647-9675.

## Spirit Wind 2009

The Yanush Assembly of God Church is holding a day of fasting and prayer for the Choctaw Nation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 4.

Speakers will include Pastor Kenny Bryant, Dr. Nigeil Bigpond, Dr. Jay Swallo, Sara Nowabbi Sherrill, Oscar Aguero and Frank and Sharon Noah.

## Veterans Association

The Choctaw Veterans Association will meet at 11 a.m. on April 11 at the Choctaw Tribal Office, 707 Bond St., Crowder. A potluck meal will be enjoyed.

## 44th Annual Gospel Singing

The 44th Annual Gospel Singing will be held May 2 at Oka Achukma Presbyterian Church near Broken Bow. It starts at 7 p.m. Supper is at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

## District 2 Princess Pageant

The District 2 Princess Pageant will be held at 6 p.m. on May 9 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Broken Bow. Applications may be picked up at the Boys and Girls Club, Broken Bow. For more information, please call 580-584-3636.

## Bohanon-Impson Family Reunion

It's almost time for the Bohanon-Impson Reunion. On Friday, May 22, we will begin at Zoraya Cemetery to clean graves and to remember loved ones who have gone on. There will be a campfire cookout, picture-taking, and good conversation. Bring potluck, chairs, cleaning implements and refreshments. No alcohol, please.

On Saturday, May 23, the family will meet at Shelter 1 of McGee Park, between Atoka and Antlers. This is across from the swimming area. We will have our annual dinner, meeting and auction. Please bring items to be auctioned off, information you would like to share, and games for recreation.

Come and plan to have a great weekend with family. New family members are very welcome. For more information, contact Ellen at 580-380-1230; Cathy at 972-285-9522; or Judy at 580-271-0171.

## Thompson-McKinney Family Reunion

The Thompson and McKinney Reunion will be held Saturday, May 23, at the Area #2 shelter of Lake Eufaula State Park. Beginning at 10 a.m., the reunion will include a potluck meal, Bingo, horseshoes and a cake walk.

2nd Annual Career Expo

**INSPIRE  
YOUR CAREER  
DEVELOP YOUR DREAMS**

**March 31, 2009  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Southeast Expo Center  
McAlester, OK**

- Industry Professionals will be speaking on career opportunities.
- On-site Recruiters will be actively seeking to fill job positions. Come dressed for success!
- Meet with Recruiters from Ivy League Universities!



Guest Speaker: Jason White  
2003 Heisman Trophy Winner

Presented by:  
**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma**  
Career Development &  
Scholarship Advise ment  
(866) 933-2260



Contact us  
for transportation!  
Deadline: March 23rd





Little Bella Sandoval proudly wears her bib that states "I'm So Cute I Must Be Choctaw!" while she is held by Chief Pyle. Her grandmother, Kathy Strait, is also pictured.

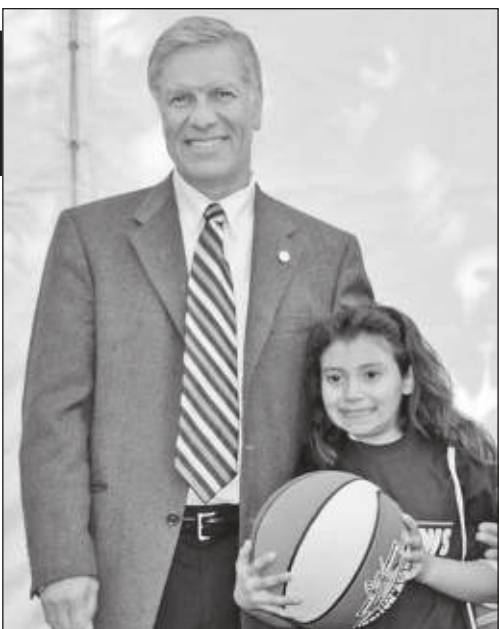


Crystal Jarrett, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Tommie Markota at the San Diego meeting.

COMMUNITY MEETING IN SAN DIEGO



Elizabeth Olene Billy Honanie was one of the last Wheelock graduates in 1955. She now lives in San Diego.



Danielle Enriquez assisted the Chief with drawing door prize tickets.



Chief Pyle visits with George Willis Jr. and Sr.



Outreach Executive Director Randy Hammons is pictured with Lois and Chuck Solomon.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Chief Gregory E. Pyle flank the Edwards family, Richard, Gale and Tory.



Lupe Ott and Dixie Miller visit the Health Booth, manned by Teresa Jackson and Janeen Gray.



June Lachenmyer and Denise Lachenmyer-Lavon with Chief Pyle.



Pictured with Higher Education Director Larry Wade, Krystena and Robert Blevins are picking up information regarding scholarships.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle presents Miguel Garcia with a gift for helping with door prizes in Phoenix.

COMMUNITY MEETING IN PHOENIX



Ken and Lauren English visit with Ashleigh Nagy, Luvenia Nagy and Barbara Nagy about the Choctaw Nation Career Development Program during the community meeting in Phoenix.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton greets visitors as they come to the Phoenix meeting. He is pictured with Korey, Hannah, Ricky, Hayle and their dad, Kurt Mueller.



Gathered in front of the Choctaw Nation seal in Phoenix are Amanda Kane, holding Evan Campbell, Alana Graham, Internet Language Instructor Lillie Roberts, young Jared and Briana Kane, Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton, Robert Kane, Lola Crane and Robby Kane holding Gavin Graham.



In Phoenix, Chief Pyle has a picture taken with Howard Hoover, far right; his son, Lawrence Pope, and fiancé Niva, and his wife, Audrey Longoria Hoover.



Chief Pyle visits with Adolphus and Zelda Lee of Buckeye, Arizona.



Assistant Chief Batton is pictured with Rickie Bremer, Eric Bremer and Sarah Bremer.



Chief Pyle says hello to Robert and Ethel Hanko of Peoria, Arizona.

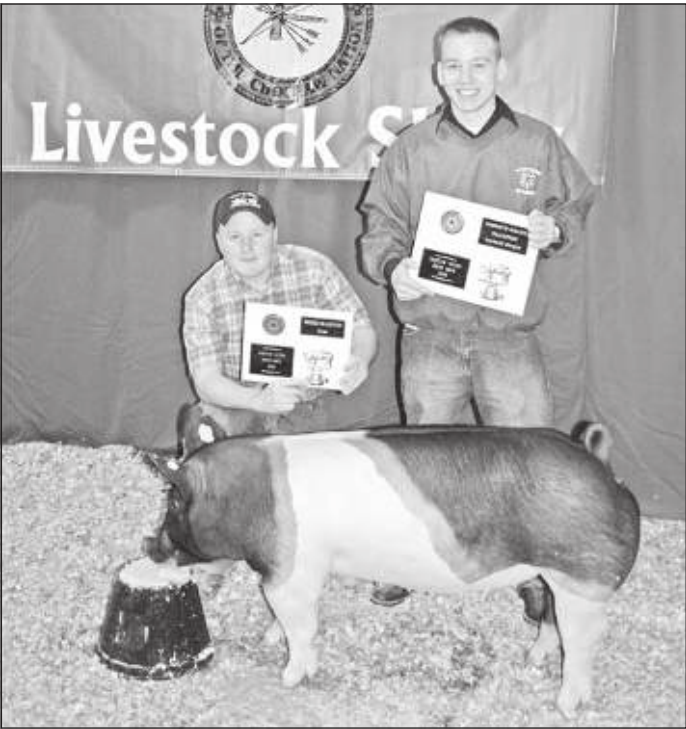


# Choctaw Nation Livestock Show

The annual Choctaw Nation Livestock Show was held February 7 and 8 at two locations, Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton and the Choctaw Event Center in Durant. Congratulations to all the winners!



Grand Champion Swine, Wilburton show – Kaylee Cox, pictured with Councilmen Joe Coley and Kenny Bryant.



Reserve Grand Champion Swine and Reserve Champion Hamp, Wilburton – Lonsford Crook, pictured with Jones Academy Agriculture Supervisor Brandon Spears.



Senior Showman Swine, Wilburton – Ariel LeForce, pictured with Lance Reavis and Michael McGee.



Junior Showman Swine, Wilburton – Hannah Palmer, pictured with little sister Rachel.

## WILBURTON SHOW – SWINE –

Grand Champion Swine, Wilburton: Kaylee Cox.

Reserve Grand Champion Swine, Wilburton: Lonsford Crook.

Senior Showman Swine: Ariel LeForce.

Junior Showman Swine: Hannah Palmer.

### Berk

Breed Champion Berk, Wilburton: Ariel LeForce.

Reserve Breed Champion Berk, Wilburton: Hunter Mason.

### Class 1 Berk

1. Madison Hill; 2. Kallie Crawford; 3. Felicia Nunn; 4. Ethan Bean; 5. Allison McGuire; 6. Michaela Phillips.

### Class 2 Berk

1. Ariel LeForce; 2. Hunter Mason; 3. Hailey Rains; 4. Dakota Hokit.

### Chester

Breed Champion Chester, Wilburton: Hannah Palmer.

Reserve Breed Champion Chester, Wilburton: Nichalle Evans.

### Class 1 Chester

1. Nichalle Evans; 2. Dillon McGill; 3. Dillon McGill; 4. Saul Martinez; 5. Ethan Bean.

### Class 2 Chester

1. Hannah Palmer; 2. Kaity Foster; 3. Tristian Evans; 4. Ruthe Davis.

### Class 3 Chester

1. B.J. Nunn; 2. Desirea Duggan; 3. Carrie Russell; 4. Makenzie Stafford; 5. Jeremiah Weeden.

### Duroc

Breed Champion Duroc, Wilburton: Hannah Palmer.

Reserve Breed Champion Duroc, Wilburton: Kareesa Kennedy.

### Class 1 Duroc

1. Chloe Rogers; 2. Bailey Perry; 3. Bailey Perry; 4. Rhannon Bean; 5. Tyler Whitecotton.

### Class 2 Duroc

1. Kristen Hedge; 2. Sarah Palmer; 3. Tucker LeMay; 4. Jady Nills; 5. Katie Williams.

### Class 3 Duroc

1. Stormy Dull; 2. Tylor Bush; 3. Braden Medlock; 4. Colte Griggs; 5. Autumn Battiest; 6. Dustin Duggan.

### Class 4 Duroc

1. Hannah Palmer; 2. Kareesa Kennedy; 3. Cory Buchanan; 4. Hillaree Cox; 5. Logan Odom; 6. Harley Roba.

### Hamp

Breed Champion Hamp: Kaylee Cox.

Reserve Champion Hamp: Lonsford Crook.

### Class 1 Hamp

1. Tristian Tiger; 2. Kaula Murry; 3. Heather O'Neal; 4. Joshua Champion; 5. Justin Duggan; 6. Tyler Manley; 7. Jacob Carter; 8. Glen Frost.

### Class 2 Hamp

1. Jacob Price; 2. Leandra Henry; 3. Bo Lewis; 4. B.J. Nunn; 5. Ty Pilkington; 6. Noah Irwin; 7. Cheyanne Pilkington; 8. Morgan Mings; 9. Logan Odom; 10. Matthew Battiest; 11. Karrah Curley; 12. Garret Williams.

### Class 3 Hamp

1. Jennifer Williams; 2. Jaylin Chatlin; 3. Leandra Henry; 4. Kiefer Holloway; 5. Hunter Mason; 6. Tyler Jones; 7. Kelsey Brown; 8. Jady Nills; 9. April Brown; 10. Laurn Rader.

### Class 4 Hamp

1. Cheyanne Neal; 2. Bryce Livingston; 3. Dakota Hokit; 4. Tyler Hardin; 5. Chloe Rogers; 6. Tiffany Noel; 7. Paige Olive; 8. Landon Carper; 9. Frankie Howard.

### Class 5 Hamp

1. Cody Hugle; 2. Kareesa Kennedy; 3. Logan Byrd; 4. Landon Moody; 5. Desirea Duggan; 6. Brittan Raines; 7. Pam Britton; 8. Freddy James; 9. Lauryn Rader; 10. Adam Few.

### Class 6 Hamp

1. Hannah Palmer; 2. Ra-



Breed Champion Berk, Wilburton – Ariel LeForce is pictured with Councilmen Joe Coley and Delton Cox, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, and Councilmen Jack Austin and Bob Pate.



Breed Champion Chester, Wilburton – Hannah Palmer, pictured with Councilmen Joe Coley and Delton Cox, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, and Councilmen Jack Austin and Bob Pate.



Breed Champion Hamp, Wilburton – Kaylee Cox, pictured with Councilmen Joe Coley and Delton Cox, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, and Councilmen Bob Pate and Kenny Bryant.

chelle DiNardo; 3. Tucson Evans; 4. Parker Olive; 5. Shane Timmons; 6. Destiny Duggan; 7. Grace Medlock; 8. Trevor Smith; 9. Whitney Noel; 10. Collie Doyle.

### Class 7 Hamp

1. Lonsford Crook; 2. Richard Howard; 3. Colby Skelton; 4. Jacob Price; 5. Ariel LeForce; 6. Chris LoneElk; 7. Zack Smith; 8. Heather Edington; 9. Lane Trevins; 10. Lexie Moody; 11. Brashaud Curley.

### Class 8 Hamp

1. Kaylee Cox; 2. Blake Kennedy; 3. Sarah Palmer; 4. Katie Cox.

### Poland

Breed Champion Poland, Wilburton: Allison Beames.

Reserve Breed Champion Poland, Wilburton: Joseph Morgan.

### Class 1 Poland

1. Allison Beames; 2. Joseph Morgan; 3. Allison McGuire; 4. Paige Campagna.

### Spot

Breed Champion Spot, Wilburton: Blake Kennedy.

Reserve Breed Champion Spot, Wilburton: Sarah Palmer.

### Class 1 Spot

1. Sarah Palmer; 2. Kaity Foster; 3. Cheyanne Neal; 4. Sawyer Blue; 5. Laney Davis; 6. Lacey Emmment.

### Class 2 Spot

1. Blake Kennedy; 2. Kallie Crawford; 3. Ben Blankenship.

### York

Breed Champion York, Wilburton: Kaylee Cox.

Reserve Breed Champion York, Wilburton: Lexen Cook.

### Class 1 York

1. Lexen Cook; 2. Jacy Wills; 3. Grace Medlock; 4. Micah Crenshaw; 5. Stephanie Brantley; 6. Morgan Crenshaw; 7. Mackenzie Green.

### Class 2 York

1. Nichalle Evans; 2. Landon Moody; 3. Kallie Crawford; 4. Callie Doyle; 5. Jordan Gilreath; 6. Lewis; 7. Alex Battiest; 8. Raney Johnson; 9. Kacie Davison; 10. Landon Carper.

### Class 3 York

1. Ariel LeForce; 2. Travis Cox; 3. Carley Hightower; 4. Paige Campagna; 5. Jeremiah Weeden; 6. Kayce Davison; 7. Mason Crenshaw; 8. Cheyanne Rogers; 9. Sheleigh

Swearingen; 10. Dustin Duggan.

### Class 4 York

1. Kaylee Cox; 2. Hannah Beames; 3. Dakota Davis.

### Cross

Breed Champion Cross: Tristian Evans.

Reserve Breed Champion Cross: Blair Smallwood.

### Class 1 Cross

1. Lane Williams; 2. Whitlee Curliss; 3. Jennifer Williams; 4. Jessica Murry; 5. Tristian Tiger; 6. Logan Odom; 7. Shyrra Howard; 8. Tucker LeMay; 9. Kelly Hollic; 10. Matt Johnson.

### Class 2 Cross

1. Kareesa Kennedy; 2. Kaula Murry; 3. Lane Williams; 4. Rachelle Dinardo; 5. Matthew Bruner; 6. Madison Hill; 7. Tiffany Noel.

### Class 3 Cross

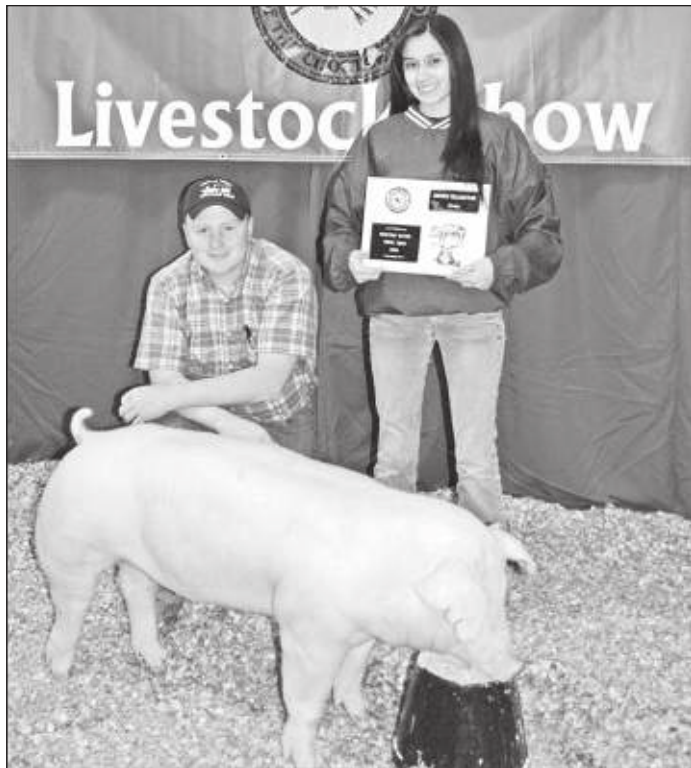
1. Jared James; 2. Jennifer Williams; 3. Lonsford Crook; 4. Autumn Battiest; 5. Lauryn Rader; 6. Charles Taylor; 7. Freddy James; 8. Mikey Guazdausk; 9. Lane Bandy; 10. Brittany Joslin.

*More Results and Photos from the Choctaw Nation Livestock Show on Page 11*





Reserve Breed Champion Berk, Wilburton – Hunter Mason.



Reserve Breed Champion Chester, Wilburton – Nichalle Evans, pictured with Jones Academy Agriculture Director Brandon Spears.



Reserve Breed Champion Poland, Wilburton – Joseph Morgan, pictured with Councilmen Joe Coley and Kenny Bryant.



Breed Champion York, Wilburton – Kaylee Cox, pictured with Councilman Kenny Bryant.



Reserve Breed Champion Yorkshire, Wilburton – Lexon Cook, pictured with Councilmen Joe Coley and Kenny Bryant.



Breed Champion Duroc, Wilburton – Hannah Palmer, pictured with Council Speaker Delton Cox, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and District 11 Councilman Bob Pate.



Reserve Breed Champion Duroc, Wilburton – Kareesa Kennedy, pictured with Council Speaker Delton Cox, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and District 11 Councilman Bob Pate.



Breed Champion Spot, Wilburton – Blake Kennedy.



Reserve Breed Champion Spot, Wilburton – Sarah Palmer.

# Choctaw Nation Livestock Show

Continued from Page 10

- Class 4 Cross**
1. Jared James; 2. Emily Jackson; 3. Rachelle DiNardo; 4. Tristian Tiger; 5. Lane Williams; 6. Bryce Livingston; 7. William Edington; 8. Chloe Rogers; 9. Logan Byrd; 10. Mikey Guazdauskys.

- Class 5 Cross**
1. Blair Smallwood; 2. Taylor Wall; 3. Smokey Rogers; 4. B.J. Nunn; 5. Candice Baker; 6. Justin Duggan; 7. Taylor Wall; 8. Dillon Camp; 9. Phyllis Doyle; 10. Emille Cox; 11. Cory Buchanan.

- Class 6 Cross**
1. Tristian Evans; 2. John-Ross Christenberry; 3. Bryan Lockaby; 4. Whitney Noel; 5. Kaitlynn Sebo; 6. Pam Britton; 7. Lexen Cook; 8. Bubba O'Bryan; 9. Justin Duggan; 10. Jacob Rolf; 11. Sawyer Blue.

- Class 7 Cross**
1. Whitney Sebo; 2. Christian Smith; 3. Kelsey Brown; 4. Paige Campagna; 5. Lexie Moody; 6. Cooper Wood; 7. Bubba O'Bryan; 8. Samuel Cox; 9. Brenna Fry; 10. Tylor Bush.

- Class 8 Cross**
1. Blair Smallwood; 2. Micah Crenshaw; 3. Madison Hill; 4. Smokey Rogers; 5. Alex Battiest; 6. Brent Anderson; 7. Hannah Beames; 8. Destin Moore; 9. Destiny Duggan.

- Class 9 Cross**
1. Kaylee Cox; 2. Jessica Smith; 3. Jacy Wills; 4. Justin Duggan; 5. Summer Durant; 6. Carley Hightower; 7. Chelsea Roba.

- WILBURTON – GOATS –**
- Grand Champion Goat, Wilburton: Blake Kennedy.
- Reserve Grand Champion Goat, Wilburton: Ashton Kellum.
- Senior Showman Goat, Wilburton: Callie Curnutt.
- Junior Showman Goat, Wilburton: Blake Kennedy.

- Class 1 Goat**
1. Paige Sparks; 2. Rachel Baker; 3. Hunter Mason; 4. Michaela Phillips; 5. Shelbie Smith; 6. Mackenzie Maxwell; 7. Cassie Watkins.
- Class 2 Goat**
1. Paige Sparks; 2. Cordell Collins; 3. Kyleigh Hilburn; 4. Jeffery Duncan; 5. Nick Wallace; 6. Nicole Dobbs; 7. Logan Suter; 8. Mackenzie Maxwell; 9. James Savage; 10.



Breed Champion Poland, Wilburton – Allison Beames, pictured with Councilmen Joe Coley and Delton Cox, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, and Councilmen Kenny Bryant and Bob Pate.

- Class 3 Goat**
1. Ashlyn Kellum; 2. Colton Murihead; 3. Cheyenne Robison; 4. Shannon Love; 5. Michaela Phillips; 6. Shelbie Smith; 7. Mollie McGee; 8. Levi Suter; 9. James Savage.
- Class 4 Goat**
1. Blake Kennedy; 2. Emily Jackson; 3. Rachel Baker; 4. Colton Murihead; 5. Levi Suter; 6. Kirby Needham; 7. Shelbie Smith; 8. Lane Hunter.

- Class 5 Goat**
1. Blake Kennedy; 2. Matthew Barnes; 3. Jeffery Hardwick; 4. Jeffery Hardwick; 5. Adrianna Curnutt; 6. Mollie McGee; 7. Colton Murihead; 8. Logan Suter; 9. Sheleigh Swearingen; 10. Kaela Potts.
- Class 6 Goat**
1. Blake Kennedy; 2. Walker Gragg; 3. Emily Jackson; 4. Dakota Hokit; 5. Jaymie Watkins; 6. Nicole Dobbs; 7. Logan Suter; 8. Dustin Finch; 9. April Brown.

- Class 7 Goat**
1. Callie Curnutt; 2. Cherish Wilkerson; 3. Cheyenne Robison; 4. DaNetta Wilkerson; 5. Heather Finch; 6. Heather Finch; 7. Dustin Finch.

- WILBURTON – MARKET LAMBS –**
- Grand Champion Market Lamb, Wilburton: Dillon McGill.
- Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb, Wilburton: Karley Ross.
- More Results and Photos from the Choctaw Nation Livestock Show on Page 12**



Breed Champion Cross, Wilburton – Tristian Evans, pictured with Jones Academy Agriculture Supervisor Brandon Spears..



Reserve Breed Champion Cross, Wilburton – Blair Smallwood, pictured with Councilmen Joe Coley and Kenny Bryant.





Grand Champion Goat, Wilburton – Blake Kennedy, pictured with Colton Muirhead and Danny Thompson.



Reserve Grand Champion Goat, Wilburton – Ashton Kellum.



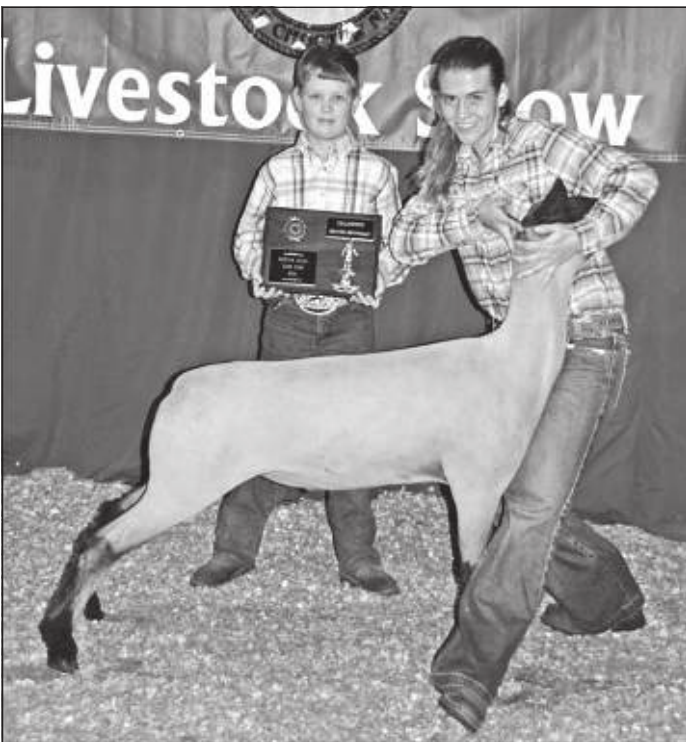
Senior Showman Goat, Wilburton – Callie Curnutt, pictured with John Lastly, judge of the goat and market lamb divisions.



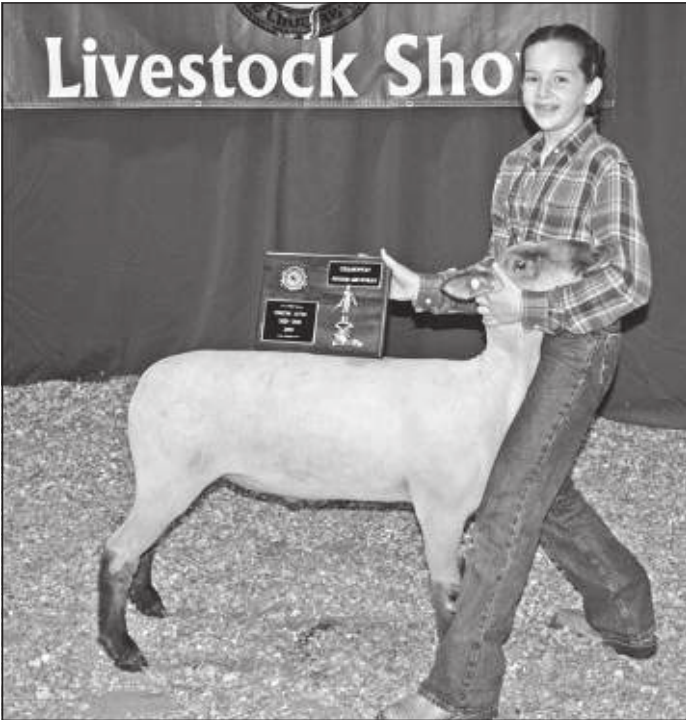
Junior Showman Goat, Wilburton – Blake Kennedy, pictured with Danny Thompson.



Grand Champion Market Lamb, Wilburton – Dillon McGill, pictured with John Lastly, judge of the goat and market lamb divisions.



Senior Showman Market Lamb, Wilburton – Rhiannon Bean, pictured with little brother Ethan.



Junior Showman Market Lamb, Wilburton – Emily Shaw.

# Choctaw Nation Livestock Show

*Continued from Page 11*

Senior Showman Market Lamb, Wilburton: Rhiannon Bean.

Junior Showman Market Lamb, Wilburton: Emily Shaw.

**Class 1 Market Lamb**  
1. Karley Ross; 2. Katie Williams; 3. Krystal McClen-don; 4. Katherine Battle.

**Class 2 Market Lamb**  
1. Taylor Johnson; 2. Emily Davidson; 3. Kristyn Adams; 4. Lacey Emmet; 5. Emily Shaw; 6. Flint Shaw; 7. Jay-mie Watkins; 8. C.J. Dolan.

**Class 3 Market Lamb**  
1. Taylor Davidson; 2. Ash-lyn Kellum; 3. Cordell Col-lins; 4. Schiann Laughlin; 5. Jennifer Williams; 6. Christen Shaw; 7. J.D. Chancellor; 8. Morgan Mings; 9. Matthew Barnes; 10. Morgan Mings.

**Class 4 Market Lamb**  
1. Dylan McGill; 2. Ashlyn Kellum; 3. Emily Shaw; 4. Cordell Collins; 5. Katherine Ashby; 6. Jennifer Williams; 7. Emily Shaw; 8. Terry Ingle; 9. Cassie Watkins; 10. Justin Maxwell.

**Class 5 Market Lamb**  
1. Ashlyn Kellam; 2. Kristyn Adams; 3. Christen Shaw; 4. Matt Effinger; 5. Scott Helm; 6. Jaymie Watkins; 7. Scott Helm; 8. Emily Jackson.

**Class 6 Market Lamb**  
1. Karley Ross; 2. Rhiannon Bean; 3. Maddy Guazdauskys; 4. Flint Shaw; 5. Jeffery Hard-wick; 6. Mackenzie Maxwell; 7. Jeffery Hardwick; 8. Scott Helm; 9. Katey Johnson; 10.

Rhiannon Bean; 11. Maddy Guazdauskys.

**WILBURTON  
– BEEF –**  
Senior Beef Showman, Wilburton: Rebecca Isbell.  
Junior Beef Showman, Wilburton: Hailey Henry.

**HEIFERS**  
Supreme Champion Heifer, Wilburton: Rebecca Isbell.  
Reserve Supreme Champi-on Heifer, Wilburton: Brooke Ramsey.

**English**  
Breed Champion English Heifer, Wilburton: Brooke Ramsey.

Reserve Breed Champion English Heifer, Wilburton: Kyle Pingleton.

**Class 1 English Division**  
1. Brooke Ramsey; 2. Ash-ton Thomason; 3. Brooke Ramsey; 4. Langston Upton; 5. Jessica Smith.

**Class 2 English Division**  
1. Brooke Ramsey; 2. Hai-ley Raines; 3. Colby Cole.

**Class 3 English Division**  
1. Rachel Smith; 2. Cody Bull.

**Class 4 English Division**  
1. Kyle Pingleton; 2. Jordan Thomason.

**Class 5 English Division**  
1. Candace Wilson; 2. Der-ek Shaw.

**Continental**  
Breed Champion Contin-ental Heifer, Wilburton: Rebec-ca Isbell.

*More Results and Photos  
from the Choctaw Nation  
Livestock Show on Page 13*



Supreme Champion Heifer and Breed Champion Continental Heifer, Wilburton – Rebecca Isbell, pictured with Councilmen Jack Austin and Delton Cox, Kim Emerson, Councilman Bob Pate, and little brother Jonathan.



Reserve Supreme Champion Heifer, Wilburton – Brooke Ramsey, pictured with Councilmen Jack Austin, Delton Cox and Bob Pate.



Breed Champion English Heifer, Wilburton – Brooke Ramsey, pictured with sister Amber.



Reserve Breed Champion English Heifer, Wilburton – Kyle Pingleton.



Reserve Breed Champion Continental Heifer – Kolby Cato.



Reserve Breed Champion AOB Heifer – Trey Oxtoby, pictured with Councilmen Jack Austin, Delton Cox and Bob Pate, and Johnathan holding the plaque.



# Choctaw Nation Livestock Show



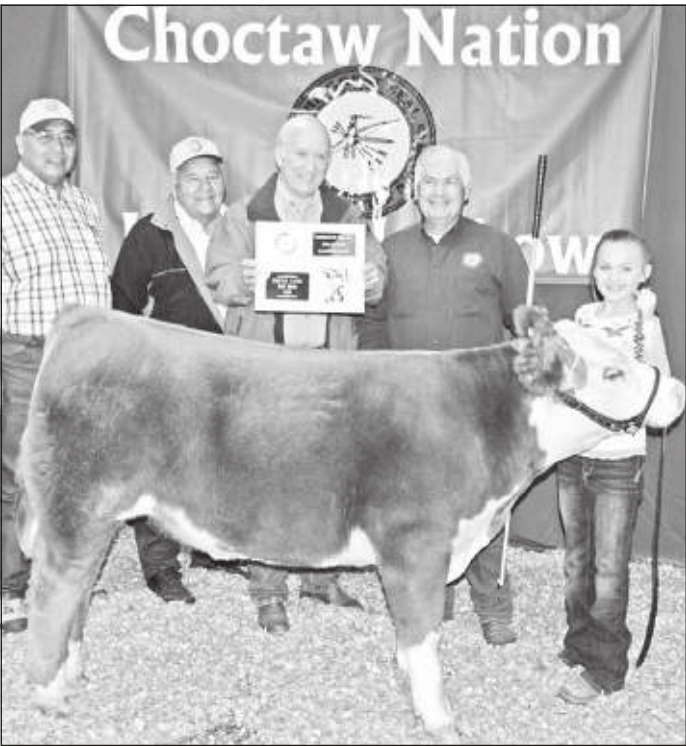
Senior Beef Showman, Wilburton – Rebecca Isbell, pictured with Councilpersons Joe Coley, Jack Austin, Charlotte Jackson and Delton Cox, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Johnathan, Trey and Adam.



Junior Beef Showman, Wilburton – Hailey Henry, pictured with Councilpersons Joe Coley, Jack Austin, Charlotte Jackson and Delton Cox and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Grand Champion Steer and Breed Champion Continental Steer, Wilburton – Seth Barnes, pictured with Councilpersons Joe Coley, Jack Austin, Delton Cox, Charlotte Jackson and Kenny Bryant and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Reserve Grand Champion Steer and Breed Champion English Steer, Wilburton – Makinsie Barnes, pictured with Councilman Joe Coley, Jack Austin, Delton Cox and Kenny Bryant.



Reserve Breed Champion Continental Steer, Wilburton – Lane Williams, pictured with Councilpersons Joe Coley, Jack Austin, Charlotte Jackson and Delton Cox, and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.

*Continued from Page 12*

Reserve Breed Champion Continental Heifer, Wilburton: Kolby Cato.

**Class 1 Continental**

1. Brandon Johnson.

**Class 2 Continental**

1. Rebecca Isbell; 2. Bailey Henry; 3. Brandon Johnson.

**Class 3 Continental**

1. Kolby Cato; 2. Brittan Raines.

**Class 4 Continental**

1. Hailey Henry.

**Brahman Influence**

Breed Champion Brahman Influence Heifer, Wilburton: Joe Paxton.

**Class 1 Brahman Influence**  
1. Joe Paxton.

**AOB**

Breed Champion AOB Heifer, Wilburton: Kayla Harris.

Reserve Breed Champion AOB Heifer: Trey Oxtoby.

**Class 1 AOB**

1. Seth Hall.

**Class 2 AOB**

1. Jason Gibson; 2. Kristen Hollan; 3. Katherine Ashby.

**Class 3 AOB**

1. Kayla Harris; 2. Jonathon

**DURANT SHOW**

**– SWINE –**

Grand Champion Swine, Durant: Chelsea Coker.

Reserve Grand Champion Swine, Durant: Ashton Thompson.

Senior Showman Swine, Durant: Ashton Thompson.

Junior Showman Swine, Durant: Austin Jestis.

**Berk**

Breed Champion Berk, Durant: Taylor Runyan.

Reserve Breed Champion Berk, Durant: Chelsea Coker.

**Class 1 Berk**

1. Taylor Runyan; 2. Chelsea Coker; 3. Crystal Reeder; 4. Morgan Perrin; 5. Deedra Tohnika.

**Chester**

Breed Champion Chester, Durant: Dalton Davis.

**Class 1 Chester**

1. Dalton Davis.

**Duroc**

Breed Champion Duroc, Durant: Jessica Collins.

Reserve Breed Champion Duroc, Durant: Jason Northcutt.

**Class 1 Duroc**

1. Jessica Collins; 2. Ross Davis; 3. Dillon Cummins; 4. Aaron Airington; 5. Kailee Airington; 6. Dalton Airington; 7. Caleb Rhoades; 8. Caleb Rhoades.

**Class 2 Duroc**

1. Jaysa Northcutt; 2. Mason Emert; 3. Dakota Robinson; 4. Trevor Bonds; 5. Eric Minyard; 6. Kyliya Tate; 7. Frank Rhoades.

**Hamp**

Breed Champion Hamp, Durant: Chelsea Coker.

Reserve Breed Champion Hamp, Durant: Makenzy Adams.

**Class 1 Hamp**

1. Daniel Venable; 2. Kaitlin Fryer; 3. Tori Stephens; 4. Corby Ake; 5. Shelton Nichols; 6. Shy'Anne Rubio; 7. Tony Weathers; 8. Corey Brown; 9. Trevor Bonds.

**Class 2 Hamp**

1. Corby Ake; 2. Pady Hobgood; 3. Alexis Thompson; 4. Blake Medders; 5. Shiane Acuna; 6. Josie Red-

Isbell; 3. Clint Crane; 4. Clair Cole.

**Class 4 AOB**

1. Trey Oxtoby; 2. Ty Smith; 3. Ty Smith; 4. Breanna Johnson.

**Class 5 AOB**

1. Audra Powell; 2. Cody Austin; 3. Draven Johnson; 4. Kareesa Kennedy.

**Class 6 AOB**

1. Langston Upton.

**STEERS**

Grand Champion Steer, Wilburton: Seth Barnes.

Reserve Grand Champion Steer, Wilburton: Makinsie Barnes.

**English**

Breed Champion English Steer, Wilburton: Makinsie Barnes.

Reserve Breed Champion English Steer, Wilburton: Taylor O'Neal.

**Class 1 Steer English**

1. Makinsie Barnes; 2. Taylor O'Neal.

**Class 2 Steer English**

1. Woodrow Wilson.

**Continental**

Breed Champion Continental Steer, Wilburton: Seth Barnes.

Reserve Breed Champion Continental Steer, Wilburton: Lane Williams.

**Class 1 Steer Continental**

1. Seth Barnes; 2. Micah Emerson.

**Class 2 Steer Continental**

1. Lane Williams; 2. Jason Gibson; 3. Cody Bull; 4. Sarah Lloyd.

**Class 3 Steer Continental**

1. Tray Blaylock.

**AOB**

Breed Champion AOB Steer, Wilburton: Kelsey Crane.

Reserve Breed Champion AOB Steer, Wilburton: Tarah Satterfield.

**Class 1 Steer AOB**

1. Kelsey Crane; 2. Tarah Satterfield.

wine; 7. Elizabeth Blansett; 8. Tracy Brown; 9. Logan Hatter; 10. Sarisa Nichols.

**Class 3 Hamp**

1. Chelsea Coker; 2. Miranda Jones; 3. Cheyenne Methvin; 4. Taylor Dancer; 5. Bryan Keeler; 6. Kyle King; 7. Dylan Robinson; 8. Frank Rhoades.

**Class 4 Hamp**

1. Makenzy Adams; 2. Lindsey Broughton; 3. Jaysa Northcutt; 4. Keara Bourland; 5. Jackson Ferguson; 6. Gabriel Tohnika; 7. Gabe Davis; 8. William Minyard; 9. Jessica Collins; 10. Amber King.

**Class 5 Hamp**

1. Ashton Thompson; 2. Taylor Henry; 3. Sam Roebuck; 4. Dailyn Herman; 5. Dalton Davis; 6. Ross Davis; 7. Grant Jeter; 8. Kyle King; 9. Misty Henderson.

**Poland**

Breed Champion Poland, Durant: Jacob Fielder.

Reserve Breed Champion Poland, Durant: Emalie Watts.

**Class 1 Poland**

1. Jacob Fielder; 2. Emalie Watts; 3. Kendel Foster.

**Spot**

Breed Champion Spot, Durant: Holden Bell.

Reserve Breed Champion Spot, Durant: Mason Emert.

**Class 1 Spot**

1. Holden Bell; 2. Mason Emert; 3. Ashley Jones; 4. Baylor Jestis; 5. Baylee Whitley; 6. Amber King.

**York**

Breed Champion York, Durant: Tandra Elkins.

Reserve Breed Champion York, Durant: Madison Rogers.

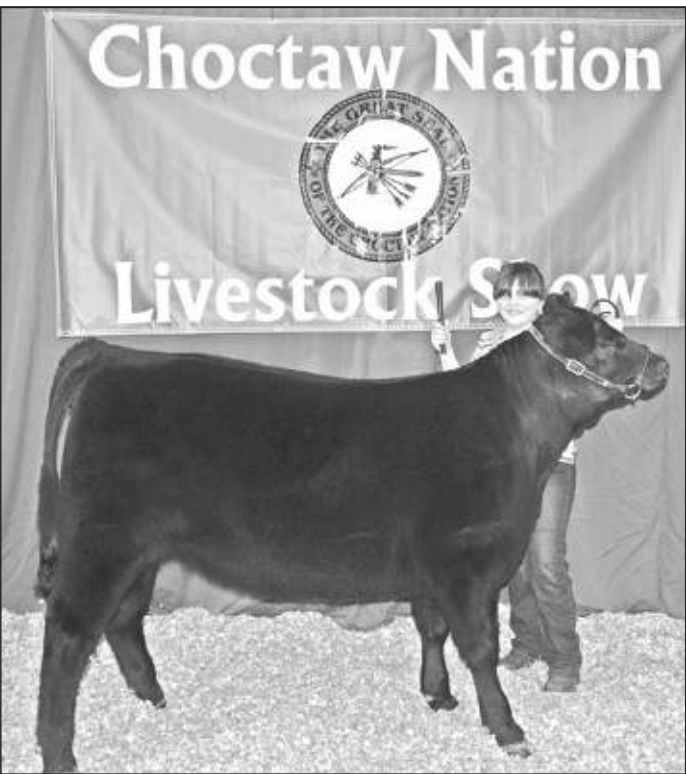
**Class 1 York**

1. Madison Rogers; 2. Austin Jestis; 3. Makenzy Adams; 4. Tanner Johnston; 5. Morgan Perrin; 6. Julie Cullum; 7. Shelton Nichols; 8. Sarisa Nichols; 9. Jake Allen.

**Class 2 York**

1. Tandra Elkins; 2. Madison Rogers; 3. Tandra Elkins; 4. Haden Bell; 5. Colten Ragan; 6. Nathan Northcutt;

*More Results and Photos from the Choctaw Nation Livestock Show on Page 14*



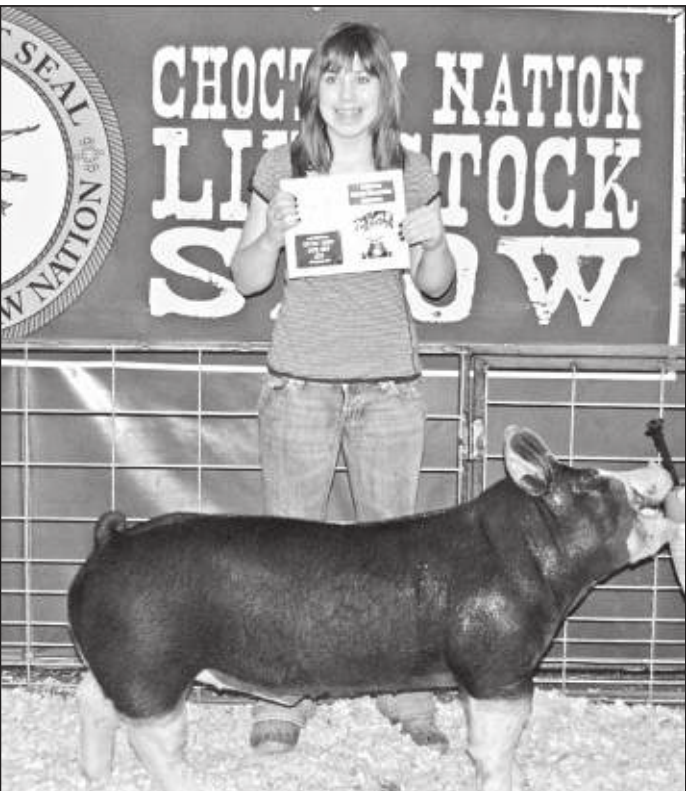
Breed Champion AOB Heifer, Wilburton – Kayla Harris.



Reserve Breed Champion English Steer, Wilburton – Taylor O'Neal, pictured with Councilmen Jack Austin, Delton Cox and Bob Pate.



Breed Champion Berk, Durant – Taylor Runyan.



Reserve Breed Champion Berk, Durant – Chelsea Coker.



Breed Champion Chester, Durant – Dalton Davis, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, James Frazier and Perry Thompson.





Grand Champion Swine and Breed Champion Hamp, Durant – Chelsea Coker, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, James Frazier and Perry Thompson.



Reserve Grand Champion Swine, Breed Champion Cross and Senior Showman Swine, Durant – Ashton Thompson.



Junior Swine Showman, Durant – Austin Jestis, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Perry Thompson.



Reserve Breed Champion York, Durant – Madison Rogers.



Breed Champion Spot, Durant – Holden Bell, pictured with Councilman Anthony Dillard.

# Choctaw Nation Livestock Show

Continued from Page 13

7. Tad Bradley; 8. Bridgett Christian; 9. Jaily Holder; 10. Tad Bradley.

**Cross**

Breed Champion Cross, Durant: Ashton Thompson.

Reserve Breed Champion Cross, Durant: Daniel Venable.

**Class 1 Cross**

1. Kalie Ables; 2. Lindsey Broughton; 3. Shiane Acuna; 4. Jake Allen; 5. Keara Bourland; 6. Justin Hall; 7. Keara Bourland; 8. Bradley Le-Boeuf.

**Class 2 Cross**

1. Daniel Venable; 2. Padyn Hobgood; 3. Michelle Young; 4. Willie McKinney; 5. Blake Medders; 6. Daniel Venable; 7. Jordan Mobbs, 8. Tanner Johnston; 9. Aubree Goodwin; 10. Aaron Airington.

**Class 3 Cross**

1. Corey Brown; 2. Shiane Acuna; 3. Taylor Stephens; 4. Jett Gardner; 5. Joseph Thompson; 6. Courney Reeder; 7. David Dill; 8. Bradley Nichols; 9. Dylan Robinson; 10. Tony Weathers.

**Class 4 Cross**

1. Ashton Thompson; 2. Jessica Collins; 3. Cole Broughton; 4. James Lee; 5. Baylor Jestis; 6. Nathan Northcutt; 7. Shelby Gallant; 8. Jacob Fielder.

**Class 5 Cross**

1. Dalton Davis; 2. Michael Broyles; 3. Sarah Thompson; 4. Trey Herman; 5. Ross Davis; 6. Kylia Tate; 7. Jerry Lambert; 8. Brody Caston; 9. Trevor Bonds.

**Class 6 Cross**

1. Ashton Thompson; 2. Brittany Christian; 3. Mason Emert; 4. Kirsten Rogers; 5. Jerry Lambert; 6. Caitlyn Roebuck.

**DURANT – GOATS –**

Grand Champion Goat, Durant: Ross Turner.

Reserve Grand Champion Goat, Durant: Kelsey Chambers.

Senior Showman Goat, Durant: Jade Bocca.

Junior Showman Goat, Durant: Kelsey Chambers.

**Class 1 Goat**

1. Dylan Wilson; 2. Peyton Mobbs; 3. Payton Boney; 4. Sadie Avants; 5. Daniel Venable; 6. Amber Frazier; 7. Dillon Sampson; 8. Mia McKee; 9. Tanner McKee; 10. Harley McKee.

**Class 2 Goat**

1. Ross Davis; 2. Kaitlyn Cooper; 3. Jackie Coe; 4. Paton Davis; 5. Brittini Taylor; 6. Dylan Orr; 7. Sarah McGahee; 8. Madeline Smallwood; 9. Kelsey Young; 10. Jacob Jones.

**Class 3 Goat**

1. Colton Cooper; 2. Bradley Snow; 3. Sydnee Hartsfield; 4. Crystal Reeder; 5. Tyler Johnson; 6. Crystal Reeder; 7. Daniel Venable; 8. Grant Jeter; 9. James Futrell.

**Class 4 Goat**

1. Dylan Wilson; 2. Isaac Cooper; 3. Virginia Beddo; 4. Caleb Brown; 5. Sydnee Hartsfield; 6. Rebeckah Boykin; 7. Dillon Sampson; 8. Patrick Joines; 9. Jacob Jones; 10. Jake Johnson. 11. Tayler Hedgecock.

**Class 5 Goat**

1. Larriann Chambers; 2. Aaron Purkins; 3. Bridgett Christian; 4. Braden Allen; 5. Zachary Dill; 6. Kyle Virdea; 7. Sadie Avants; 8. Coltin Caraway; 9. Kolby Caraway.

**Class 6 Goat**

1. Ross Turner; 2. Kelsey Chambers; 3. Caleb Brown; 4. Zach Pebsworth; 5. Russell Jones; 6. Aaron Orr; 7. Emily Coleman; 8. Shawna Garrison; 9. Aaron Orr; 10. Stacy Bacon.

**Class 7 Goat**

1. Kelsey Chambers; 2. Dillon Sampson; 3. Colby Impson; 4. Nicole Pitman; 5. JB Bell; 6. Jacob Jones; 7. Kelsey Moore; 8. Aaron Purkins; 9. Tracy Brown; 10. Jessie Pebsworth; 11. James Futrell.

**Class 8 Goat**

1. Ross Turner; 2. Colton McGahee; 3. Jessica Williams; 4. Zachary Dill; 5. Kelsey Moore; 6. Wyatt Hartsfield;

7. Shawna Garrison; 8. Rylee Tramble; 9. Madison Cross; 10. Emily Coleman; 11. Morgan House.

**Class 9 Goat**

1. Colton McGahee; 2. Wyatt Hartsfield; 3. Braden Allen; 4. Sydnee Hartsfield; 5. Jessica Williams; 6. Jayci Braudrick; 7. Madison Cross; 8. Taylor Bell; 9. Taylor Bell; 10. Kaitlin Hedgecock.

**DURANT – MARKET LAMB –**

Grand Champion Market Lamb, Durant: Heather Glass.

Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb, Durant: Hadley Bryan.

Senior Showman Market Lamb, Durant: Colby Impson.

Junior Showman Market Lamb, Durant: Julie Fielder.

**Class 1 Market Lamb**

1. Nikki Schuth; 2. Brooke Roebuck; 3. Cammie Bush; 4. Macy Powell; 5. Ashley Harris; 6. Jaylee Riley; 7. Nicholas Roebuck; 8. Caleb Rhoades; 9. Malynnda LeBoeuf; 10. Alissa Rhoades.

**Class 2 Market Lamb**

1. Heather Glass; 2. Larriann Chambers; 3. Courtney Nolen; 4. Cammie Bush; 5. Jessa Jemison; 6. Joise Bennett; 7. Jaymin Riley; 8. Macee Mathis; 9. LaTildra Bullard.

**Class 3 Market Lamb**

1. Nikki Schuth; 2. Larriann Chambers; 3. Colby Impson; 4. Bretlon Covey; 5. LaTildra Bullard; 6. Courtney Nolen; 7. Nicole Reese; 8. Alyson Chapman; 9. Byley Antu; 10. Tyna McKee; 11. Alissa Rhoades.

**Class 4 Market Lamb**

1. Heather Glass; 2. Hadley Bryan; 3. Nikki Schuth; 4. Colby Impson; 5. Railey Gardner; 6. Morgan House; 7. Nicole Pitman; 8. Brooke Roebuck; 9. Madeline Dancer; 10. Macee Mathis.

**Class 5 Market Lamb**

1. Heather Glass; 2. Colby Impson; 3. Ashley Jones; 4. Ethan Schuth; 5. Julie Fielder; 6. Ethan Schuth; 7. Alyson Chapman; 8. Sage Rice; 9. Dayton Tisdell.

**Class 6 Market Lamb**

1. Hadley Bryan; 2. Hadley Bryan; 3. Julie Fielder; 4. Macy Powell; 5. Julie Fielder; 6. Dillon Williams; 7. Dillon Williams.

**DURANT – BEEF –**

Senior Beef Showman, Durant: Timber Stephens.

Junior Beef Showman, Durant: Haley McGowen.

**Heifers**

Supreme Champion Heifer, Durant: Lauren Slover.

Reserve Supreme Champion Heifer, Durant: Jacob Hartin.

**AOB**

Breed Champion AOB Heifer, Durant: Haley McGowan.

Reserve Breed Champion AOB Heifer, Durant: Lauren Slover.

**Class 1 AOB**

1. Lauren Slover; 2. Hannah Carter; 3. Morgan Venable.

**Class 2 AOB**

1. Haylie McGowan; 2. Daniel Venable; 3. Whitney Jackson; 4. Dakota Robinson; 5. Kenzi Baldwin.

**Class 3 AOB**

1. Laramie Beal; 2. Ridge Stephens; 3. Kaci Trentham.

**Class 4 AOB**

1. Colby Jones; Kanda Jackson; 3. Josie Redwine; 4. Chance Sweeten.

**Brahman Influence**

Breed Champion Brahman Influence Heifer, Durant: Dustin Cochran.

Reserve Breed Champion Brahman Influence Heifer, Durant: Dillon Cochran.

**Class 1 Brahman Influence**

1. Dustin Cochran; 2. Dillon Cochran.

**Continental**

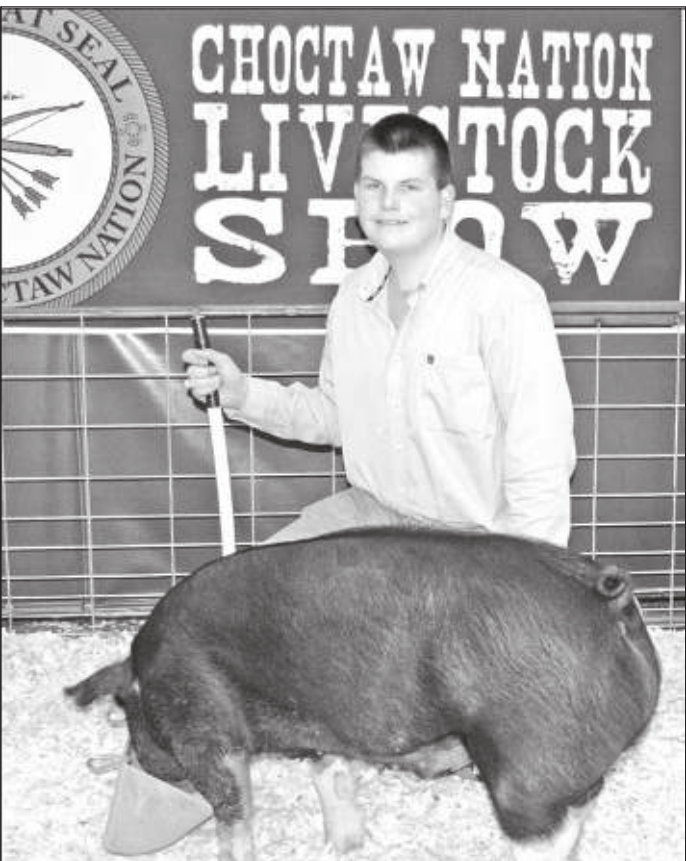
Breed Champion Continental Heifer, Durant: Lauren Slover.

Reserve Breed Champion Continental Heifer, Durant: Jacob Hartin.

*More Results and Photos from the Choctaw Nation Livestock Show on Page 14*



Reserve Breed Champion Spot, Durant – Mason Emert, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Perry Thompson.



Breed Champion Poland, Durant – Jacob Fielder.



Reserve Breed Champion Hamp, Durant – Makenzy Adams, pictured with Councilman Anthony Dillard.



Reserve Breed Champion Cross, Durant – Daniel Venable, pictured with Councilmen James Frazier and Anthony Dillard.



# Choctaw Nation Livestock Show



Breed Champion Duroc, Durant – Jessica Collins, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, James Frazier and Perry Thompson.



Breed Champion York, Durant – Tandra Elkins, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Ted Dosh.



Grand Champion Goat, Durant – Ross Turner, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Ted Dosh.



Reserve Grand Champion Goat and Junior Showman Goat, Durant – Kelsey Chambers, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Ted Dosh.



Senior Showman Goat, Durant – Jade Bocca, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Ted Dosh.



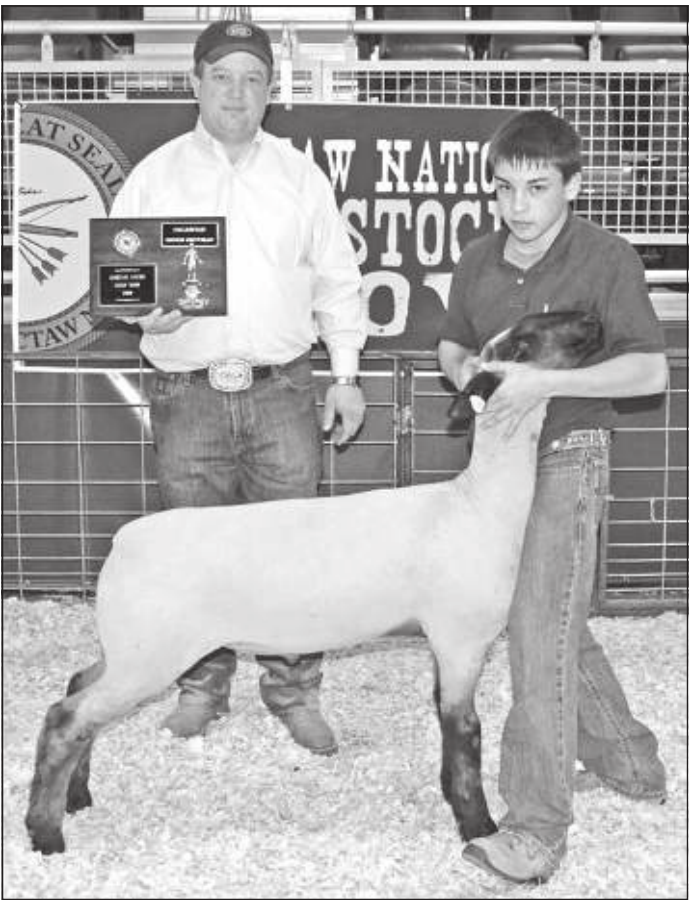
Junior Showman Market Lamb, Durant – Julie Fielder.



Grand Champion Market Lamb, Durant – Heather Glass, pictured with Councilman Anthony Dillard.



Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb, Durant – Hadley Bryan.



Senior Showman Market Lamb, Durant – Colby Impson.

Continued from Page 14.

## Class 1 Continental

1. Lauren Slover;
2. Taylor Mobbs;
3. Leslie Carter;
4. Jacob Hartin;
5. Timber Stephens;
6. Jaysa Northcutt;
7. Blaze Price;
8. Luke Serner.

## Class 2 Continental

1. Haylie McGowan;
2. Bradley Robinson;
3. Judge Hartin;
4. Brittany Christian.

## Class 3 Continental

1. Laredo Beal;
2. Rebecca Cox;
3. Dusty Pebsworth;
4. Payton Sweeten;
5. Dylan Robinson;
6. Sarah Thompson;
7. Nathan Thompson;
8. Mason Morris.

## Class 4 Continental

1. Jacob Hartin.

## English

Breed Champion English Heifer, Durant: Jesse Green.

Reserve Breed Champion English Heifer, Durant: Colby Jones.

## Class 1 English

1. Colby Jones;
2. Parker Mobbs;
3. Lane Stewart.

## Class 2 English

1. LeAnn Thompson;
2. Luke Serner;
3. Kent Davidson.

## Class 3 English

1. Jade Baca;
2. Jade Baca;
3. Trevor Methvin.

## Class 4 English

1. Jesse Green;
2. Jaysa Northcutt.

## Steers

Grand Champion Steer, Durant: Lane Stewart.

Reserve Grand Champion Steer, Durant: Jesse Green.

## Continental

Breed Champion Continental Steer, Durant: Lane Stewart.

art.

Reserve Breed Champion Continental Steer, Durant: Jesse Green.

## Class 1 Continental

1. Jesse Green;
2. Lane Stewart.

## Class 2 Continental

1. Ashlyn Scott;
2. Judge Hartin;
3. Morgan Venable.

## Class 3 Continental

1. Lane Stewart;
2. Macy Powell;
3. Colby Jones;
4. Kaci Trentham.

## Class 4 Continental

1. Laramie Beal;
2. Aspen Clemens;
3. Nichole Hartin;
4. Sahara Jump.

## English

Breed Champion English Steer, Durant: Julie Cullum.

Reserve Breed Champion English Steer, Durant: Chance Sweeten.

## Class 1 English

1. Julie Cullum.

## Class 2 English

1. Chance Sweeten;
2. Chance Jump.

## AOB

Breed Champion AOB Steer, Durant – Cooper Wood.

Reserve Breed Champion AOB Steer, Durant – Taylor Payne.

## Class 1 AOB

1. Dillon Bowen;
2. Luke Serner;
3. Kristi Harris;
4. Nathan Northcutt.

## Class 2 AOB

1. Taylor Payne.

## Class 3 AOB

1. Cooper Wood;
2. Leslie Carter.

More photos on Page 16



Supreme Champion and Breed Champion Continental Heifer, Durant – Lauren Slover, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, Perry Thompson, Ted Dosh and James Frazier.



Reserve Breed Champion Continental Heifer, Durant – Jacob Hartin, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, Perry Thompson, Ted Dosh and James Frazier. Jacob also won Reserve Supreme Champion Heifer in Durant.



Breed Champion English Heifer, Durant – Jesse Green, pictured with Andrew Amos and Councilmen Mike Amos, Perry Thompson and Anthony Dillard.



Reserve Breed Champion English Heifer, Durant – Colby Jones, pictured with Councilman Anthony Dillard, Andrew Amos, and Councilmen Mike Amos and Perry Thompson.

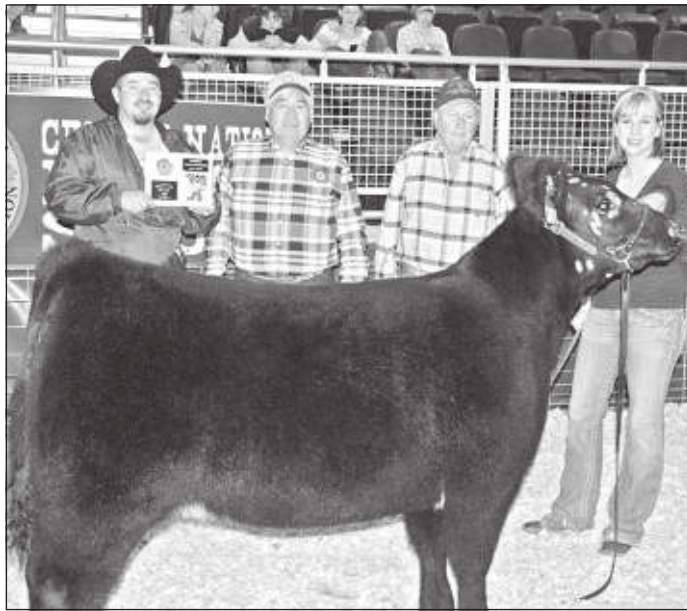




Reserve Breed Champion Brahman Influence Heifer, Durant – Dillon Cochran, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, James Frazier, Ted Dosh and Perry Thompson.



Breed Champion AOB Heifer, Durant – Haley McGowan, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, James Frazier and Ted Dosh.



Reserve Breed Champion AOB Heifer, Durant – Lauren Slover, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, James Frazier and Ted Dosh.



Breed Champion Brahman Influence Heifer, Durant – Dustin Cochran, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard, James Frazier, Ted Dosh and Perry Thompson.



## TVA receives award

Choctaw Nation was one of nine Tribal Victim Assistance Grantees to be honored with an Outstanding Program Report. Bob Brown of the Department of Justice, Office of Victims Crime recognized these programs at the Tribal Victims Assistance Post Awards meeting at the 11th Annual Indian Nations Conference in Palm Springs, California. Accepting the award for Choctaw Nation Victim Services was Assistant Director Vicki Perez.

Pictured above are Mark Matthews, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Warm Springs, Oregon; Renee Fasthorse Iron Hawk, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Eagle Butte, South Dakota; Vicki Perez, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; Barbara Murray, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Perkins, Oklahoma; Rebekah Jones, Prairie Band Potowatomie, Mayetta, Kansas; Mary Dodd, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Wadsworth, Nevada; Corrine Sanchez, TEWA Women United, Espanola, New Mexico; Elena Aluskak, Tundra Women’s Coalition, Bethel, Alaska.

# Choctaw Nation Livestock Show



Supreme Champion Steer and Breed Champion Continental Steer, Durant – Lane Stewart, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Ted Dosh.



Breed Champion English Steer – Julie Cullum, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Ted Dosh.



Reserve Breed Champion English Steer, Durant – Chance Sweeten, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Ted Dosh.





Reserve Supreme Champion Steer and Reserve Breed Champion Continental Steer, Durant – Jesse Green, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Ted Dosh.



Breed Champion AOB Steer, Durant – Cooper Wood, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Ted Dosh.



Reserve Breed Champion AOB Steer, Durant – Taylor Payne, pictured with Councilmen Anthony Dillard and Ted Dosh.



## Choctaw Nation GED Classes

**LATIMER COUNTY**  
**May 4, 2009**  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Choctaw Nation Community Center  
515 Center Point Road, Wilburton, Oklahoma

**McCURTAIN COUNTY**  
**May 4, 2009**  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
SOSU McCurtain County Campus  
Idabel, Oklahoma

**BRYAN COUNTY**  
**May 5, 2009**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex  
South building, downstairs  
Durant, Oklahoma

**NORTH LeFLORE COUNTY**  
**May 5, 2009**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Choctaw Nation Investment Center  
Poteau, Oklahoma

The class will meet 2 days a week for 13 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 (per day) transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

**Jones students visit Tribal Complex in Durant**  
Fifth and sixth grade Jones Academy students recently visited the Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex in Durant. They enjoyed their visit, especially meeting with Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton.

**Wheelock visitors**  
Former Wheelock students Leona Marks Marshall and Johnnie Ann Marks McDaniel recently revisited Wheelock Academy. They attended school from 1950-1955.

ATTENTION

Choctaw Nation  
Summer  
**Youth**  
Work  
Program

Accepting applications.  
Ages 14-21 years old.  
  
Deadline is  
**MAY 1, 2009**  
  
Applicants wishing to apply must be 14 years of age by May 1, 2009; must have a CDIB; and must reside within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation.  
All applications must be post-marked by  
**May 1, 2009.**  
Applications will not be accepted after May 1, 2009.  
For application call 1-800-522-6170, WIA Office.







# OBITUARIES

## Dee Mack Burk

Dee Mack Burk, 93, of Duncan passed away January 12, 2009. He was born September 19, 1915, in Comanche to Barney and Velda Folsom Burk and was one of six children. Mr. Burk attended grade school and high school in Comanche.



Mr. Burk was a tie-down roper competing and placing at rodeos all over the country, including Madison Square Garden, Boston, Cheyenne, Fort Worth, Houston and Calgary. He held the tie-down roping arena record in Madison Square Garden for more than a decade from the late 1940s to the late 1950s.

He was a PRCA Gold Card member and former RCA Board of Directors member, where as a two-time tie-down event director he was instrumental in making significant improvements to his event. He was a past AQHA show judge and accomplished American Quarter Horse breeder, raising several outstanding horses, including AQHA Champion, Leo Tag.

Mr. Burk was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation and served his country in the U.S. Army in Germany during World War II. He was also a member of the New Hope Baptist Church in Duncan.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Clyde Burk and Jiggs Burk, and two sisters, Pauline Lewis and Billye Burk.

Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Dorothy; two sons, Barry (Cheryl) Burk of Durant and Roy (Melinda) Burk of Duncan; one sister, Kathryn Burk of Meridian; one sister-in-law, Jean Reed of Duncan; four grandchildren, Opie Burk, Blair (Tawna) Burk, Jessica and Kaitlin Moore of Duncan; three great-grandchildren, T'Lee Burk, Evan Roberts and Kadence Moore; and one nephew, Rusty Burk.

## Hannah Mabellyn Crowe

Hannah Mabellyn Crowe passed away January 2, 2009. She was born January 3, 1983.

Survivors include her children, whom she loved very much, Jaron Smith, Alexie Smith, Stephon Smith and Roxy Kay Crowe, all of Warm Springs, Oregon; her mother, Laura L.K. Crowe of Portland, Oregon; a brother, Marcus J. Crowe of Warm Springs; her grandparents, Solomon and Esther Stewart of Watson; her uncles, whom she loved, Steven, Solomon Jr. and Roscoe Stewart, and first cousin, Lewis Stewart, all of Warm Springs; grandparents, Jimmy and Linda Lowman of Watson; from Hanna's mother's father's side, Eddie, Franis, Gladys and Roy George; her cousins, Aaron and Allen Battiest of Watson, Lydon Lowman of Smithville and Jimboy Lowman of Oklahoma City.

## Genevieve Grace Kirkpatrick

Genevieve "Genny" Fowler Kirkpatrick of Oklahoma City passed away February 3, 2009, just three weeks short of her 95th birthday. She was born February 26, 1914, in Valliant, the daughter of John W. Fowler and Eula Mae Turley, and the youngest daughter of eight siblings. She was a descendant of Nathaniel Fowler, first postmaster of Fowlerville/Valliant, Indian Territory.

In 1935, she married Archie "Kirk" Kirkpatrick and had three sons, Jerry, now deceased, Edwin "Mike" Kirkpatrick of Richardson, Texas, and John Kirkpatrick of Choctaw. She was the matriarch of the Fowler family.

She was preceded in death by her five brothers, Sims, John Weldon, Paul, Charles and Hosea; and two sisters, Ruby Little and Ruth Dodd Kennedy.

## Virgil Anson Winlock

Virgil Anson Winlock, 53, of Lancaster, Texas, passed away February 3, 2009, in Texas. He was born July 12, 1955, in Talihina to James and Lavina Stewart Winlock. He worked as a day laborer.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Victor Winlock, Jimmy Winlock, Larry Winlock and Lee Winlock.

Survivors include his sisters, Dorothy Ann Davis of Oklahoma City, Shirley Bonaparte of Red Oak, Jerri Sumka of Glenpool, Karen Winlock of Dallas, Texas, Janice Winlock of Tahlequah, Ruthie May Smith; aunts, Millie Chapman of Tahlequah, Loretta Rice of Ada; numerous nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews and other family members and friends.

## Minnie M. Erickson

Minnie M. McBride Erickson, 91, passed away February 12, 2009, in Northfield, Minnesota. She was born July 17, 1917, in Palisades, Minnesota, to Philip P. McBride and Mae Belle Picket. She was a descendant of Choctaw Principal Chief Samuel Garland. Her father's ancestors came from Ireland and her grandmother, Minnie Rogers Thomas from Scotland, settling in and around Texas and Indian Territory, now Oklahoma.



Minnie was always proud of her Scottish and Irish heritage and her Native American ancestry including Cherokee, getting her CDIB card and being enrolled as member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma in the last 10 years of her life, but to her family she will be often remembered defending the causes of the large Native American urban population in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she grew up. In life she loved her family and friends, cooking and sewing and crafts and a highlight of her life was a large family reunion in Oklahoma in the early 80s while many of her older relations from Texas and Oklahoma were still alive. She was a great mother and wife, and a good Choctaw in heart and spirit until the end.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Virgil P. Erickson; her parents, stepmother, two brothers and one sister.

Survivors include five children, 14 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and a host of friends of all ages.

## Anna Durant Billy

Anna Durant Billy, 93, passed away February 6, 2009, in Antlers. She was born February 22, 1915, in Corinne, Oklahoma, to Eastman and Sara Tom Durant.

Anna was a homemaker and she attended Green Hill Baptist Church in Talihina. She enjoyed fishing, gardening, visiting with friends and family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Foster Billy on March 16, 1972; one son, Roy Jesse Billy; twin infant daughters; one sister, Jency Durant; and one brother, Solomon Durant.

Survivors include her nephew, Olen Durant of Corinne; one niece, Vinita Sanders of Bennington; 12 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; 32 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

## Irene Exodus Mills

Irene Exodus Mills, 104, of Quinton passed away February 1, 2009, at Blevins Retirement Center in McAlester. She was born January 31, 1905, at Crosslanes, Indian Territory, the daughter of John and Lilly May Guess Roberts. She attended school at Crosslanes. She was a homemaker, home health provider and worked until she was in her 90s. Irene was an original Choctaw enrollee and very proud of her Choctaw heritage.



She was preceded in death by her parents; three daughters, Ima Jo, Ernestine and Daisy Mae; one son, Bill Mills; seven brothers and two sisters; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Survivors include her sons, Joe Mills Jr. of McAlester and John Mills and wife Judy of Florida; seven grandchildren, Billy W. Mills and wife Peggy of California, Danny Couch of Gulfport, Mississippi, Glenda Stephens and husband Wayne of West Liberty, Renita West of Enterprise, Joy Fitzer of Quinton, John and Jimmy Mills of Longtown; 14 great-grandchildren; numerous great-great-grandchildren and one great-great-great-grandchild.

## William Bohanon

William Lee Bohanon, 67, of Ashdown, Arkansas, passed away January 12, 2009, in Ashdown. He was born October 21, 1941, in Talihina. He was a Baptist.

He was preceded in death by his father, Julius Bohanon; a brother, Dewey Downey Bohanon; his grandparents, the Rev. Thomas and Myrtle Wade, Stewart and Marswes Bohanon and Emiline Noah.

Survivors include his wife, Paula Bohanon of Ashdown; his mother, Agnes Bohanon of Hugo; three sons, William Dean Bohanon, Paul Dowling and Damon Lee Bohanon, all of Ashdown; four daughters, Stephanie Fowlkes of Sachse, Texas, Rebecca Green of Oklahoma City, Elizabeth Fields of Moore, and Barbie Hutchison of Oklahoma City; two brothers, Douglas Bohanon of Hugo and Joe Pat Bohanon of Tahlequah; one sister, Gail Hillyard of Hugo; and ten grandchildren, Layne Fowlkes of Sachse, Mercedes Walton, Kolt Bohanon, Autumn Bohanon and Raine Dowling, all of Ashdown, Jessica Green and Allie Hutchison, both of Oklahoma City, Haley May of Ashdown, Dalton Fields and Isabella Fields, both of Moore, and one great-grandchild, Braden, of Ashdown.

## Lena Buchanan Bishop

Lena Buchanan Bishop passed away December 20, 2008, in Bakersfield, California. She was born April 4, 1923, in Spencerville.

Lena graduated from Goodland School. She was very proud of her Indian heritage. She always made the Bakersfield Gathering a family affair for all of her children and grandchildren. She was an excellent seamstress, knitter, crocheter, cook, teacher and friend. Proverbs 3 speaks of a wife of noble character. Our mother practiced what she preached and truly was a woman of noble character.



She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Knight, and husband Edward Bishop in 2001, and her son, Denny Knight.

Survivors include her daughters, Donna Newman, MyLena King and MyLissa Isaacs and husband Darren; 12 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sisters, Jim and Cotton Davis of Fort Towson and Marie Nelson of Bakersfield; and good friend, Benny Gibson of Finley.

## Jimmie Lee Cantrell

Jim Cantrell, 53, of Breckenridge, Texas, passed away January 31, 2009, at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene. He was born on April 23, 1955, in McAlester to Roy Lee Cantrell and Grace Louise Nash Cantrell.

Jim grew up in Wilburton and during his high school days he was a golden glove boxer, earning his nickname, "Speedy," from his father. He married Delena Mae Dewey on March 14, 1978, in Wichita Falls, Texas. The Cantrells made their home in Oklahoma City before moving to Breckenridge in 1984.

He worked most of his life as a roughneck and derrick hand in the oil patches throughout Oklahoma and Texas. He was a believer in Christ and was baptized in the First Baptist Church of Breckenridge, where he became a member and attended the Roughneck Sunday School Class. Jim genuinely loved and cared for his many family members and friends. He especially enjoyed spending time with his two grandsons. He was also an avid sportsman, whether it be hunting deer or fishing for crappie and catfish.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Clifford Cantrell, Delbert Cantrell and Roy Cantrell; and two sisters, Nelda Cantrell and Jody Cantrell.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Jimmie Cantrell and wife Nicole and Bacel Cantrell and wife Eva, all of Breckenridge; two daughters, April Cantrell and Violet Cantrell, both of Breckenridge; two grandsons, Tanner Cantrell and Brandon Baker, both of Breckenridge; four brothers, George Cantrell, Jerry Cantrell and Howard Cantrell, all of Wilburton, and Paul Cantrell of Hartshorne; six sisters, Dorothy Shutler of Tenkiller Lake, Judy Cantrell of Hartshorne and Gail Lawson, Donna Cantrell, Joann Cantrell and Janice Thomason, all of Wilburton; and a host of nephews, nieces and friends.

## Lena Solomon

Lena Solomon, 96, passed away February 2, 2009, in White Cloud, Kansas. She was born October 26, 1912, in Idabel to Harris and Mary Ward.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, William Solomon, and granddaughter, Rebecca Solomon.

Survivors include her son, Eugene and wife Virginia; daughter, Ireta Hudson; three grandchildren, Eugene Solomon Jr., Robert Hudson and Diann Gallego; 15 great-grandchildren, Timothy Armstrong, Polly Hudson, Kevin Solomon, Daniel Solomon, Christine Solomon, Thomas Solomon, Desiree Solomon, Susan Grajada, La Teisha Hudson, Dani Garcia, Sonny Miku Hudson, Kody Nintaosi Hudson, Robert Hudson Jr., Elena Mahli Gallego and Cristin Pakanli Gallego; 13 great-great-grandchildren, Danielle Solomon, Desirae Solomon, Jazzmine Leyva, Sabreena Solomon, Semiah Cunningham, Kaya Cunningham, Nanalya Cunningham, Ayiana Cunningham, Rebecca Martinez, Lillyana Soto, Angel Garcia, Angelique Garcia and Hope Sydney Howard.

## Leslie John Winship

Leslie John Winship, 94, of Fairfield, California, passed away January 6, 2009. He was born January 3, 1915, in Adamson to Seyon and Sampson Winship who were Choctaw original enrollees. He was the youngest of his four siblings.



From 1917 into the early 1930s, he was a resident of the Murrow Indian Orphans' Home, attended Bacone School, currently known as Bacone College in Muskogee. He joined the U.S. Army in 1938 and bravely fought in World War II in Normandy, as well as Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. He was wounded in 1944 in France and was awarded the Purple Heart and five Bronze Stars. Honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1945, he then joined the Air Force in 1947 and was honorably discharged in 1961. He then joined the Air Force Reserve and retired in 1971.

He was a quiet-spoken man but loved to tell stories of his past to his family and friends. He was affectionately known as a "living history book." He had a smile that would light up a room. Leslie will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Moses, John and Cornelius; one sister, Rosa; and three wives, Lucille of Indiana, Wardina of Fairfield, the mother of daughter Lori, and Elfriede of Fairfield.

Mr. Winship was a proud member of his tribe, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Survivors include his wife, Joanie DelBrocco-Winship; daughter Lori of Fairfield; grandson, Christopher Podojil of Ridgefield, New Jersey; step-daughter, MaryAnn DelBrocco of Vacaville; step-grandchildren, Emily Rose and Nicholas J. Winkler of Vacaville; three nieces, Juanita Terry of Rogers, Arkansas, Dee Dee Rowe of Broken Arrow and Patricia Booth of Mustang, and many other relatives.

## David Coye Estes

David Coye Estes passed away January 14, 2009, after a long fight with cancer. He was born March 4, 1924, to Goldie and David Estes, being their middle child.



He married Mary Dee Hindman on November 22, 1941, spending 63 years together before her passing in 2005. David worked for Phelps Dodge for many years. He retired in 1982 as a mill foreman in Tyronne, New Mexico. At that time he and Dee returned to Safford to live out their retirement years. David was a World War II veteran belonging to the Seabees 85th Fight Battalion. He attended the First Southern Baptist Church of Thatcher. David had many talents. He was a pilot, hunter, fisherman, horseman and a mechanic. He was very proud of his Indian heritage and belonging to the Choctaw Nation.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dee Estes, and son-in-law, Fred Palka.

Survivors include his children, Glenn and Peggy Estes of Telephone, Texas, Rocky Estes of Safford, Arizona, Donna and Darrell Brabham of Globe, Arizona, and Pamela Palka of Safford; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

## Darrell Ray Kerns

Darrell Ray Kerns passed away January 15, 2009, in Fort Worth, Texas. He was born June 6, 1954.

He was preceded in death by his father, Billy Edward Kerns; brother, Lloyd Randall Kerns; grandparents, Leona and Myrl Kerns and Nancy and Jess Stokes.

Survivors include his mother and stepfather, Tommy and Lee Harmon of Mansfield, Texas; sisters, Sandy and Ronnie Nixon of Newport, North Carolina, and Angela and Edwin Jones; brother, Stanley Kerns of Mansfield; nieces, Katie, Natalie and Paige, and nephew, Austin, of Arlington, Texas; nephew, John and Mandy Humphrey and Kaela of Arlington; uncles, Glenn and Carolyn Kerns of Indianola, Clyde and Betty Stokes of McAlester, and Harmon and Madeline Stokes of McAlester; aunt, Donna Kinard of McAlester; and nephew, Billy Kerns.

## Gordon Leroy Wade

Gordon Leroy Wade, 74, of Bray, Oklahoma, passed away January 23, 2009, at his family home. He was born October 30, 1934. The grandson of original enrollee Jefferson Wade, Gordon was a lifelong resident of Stephens County, Oklahoma.



Gordon was a quiet man who stayed to himself, never asking for much but would give all he had to help someone else.

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

Survivors include his longtime friend, Faye (John Henry); brother, Robert H. Wade of Lindsay; sister, Gayle of Texas; five sons, Dickie Wade of Texas, Monte Rauche (Wade) of Mississippi, Gordon Wade Jr. of Kansas, Guy "Sam" Wade of Oklahoma City, and his youngest son, Paul Wade of Duncan; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren and a host of friends.

## Michael O. Baker

Michael O. Baker, 46, passed away December 13, 2008, in El Paso, Texas.

During his lifetime, Michael resided in El Paso and in Los Angeles, California. He graduated from Coronado High School and the University of Texas at El Paso with a BA in criminal justice. In California, Michael's career was devoted to social service administration for 11 years where he managed numerous offices for the Southern California Indian Centers and Torres-Martinez. He also worked for the Federal Department of Corrections at FCI La Tuna as a corrections officer and a case manager. In 1990, Michael met all stringent requirements to be a Secret Service Agent.

Michael was a very talented, gifted, kind and thoughtful young man who enjoyed his life both in Texas and in California. He really enjoyed the pace of life in California and the many opportunities California offered. He leaves behind many friends and loved ones to cherish his memory.

He was preceded in death by his father, Owen J. Baker in 2003, and nephew, Dylan, in 2006.

Survivors include his mother, Agnes Bond Baker; sister, Elaine Baker Watts; brother-in-law, Gary C. Watts; sister, Nowena J. Baker, and niece, Melanie, all of El Paso.

Michael has always had a special place in his heart for his pets and leaves behind his beloved dog, Clyde, and beloved cat, HRH Princess Enigma "Iggy."