

# Code Talkers to receive awards

## President signs law to give Choctaw Code Talkers Congressional Medals!

The Choctaw Code Talkers of WWI are to be formally recognized by the United States Government with Congressional Medals for their use of Native language in transmitting coded messages, thought to be crucial in winning the war. A Congressional Gold Medal will be presented to the tribe and silver duplicates will be pre-

sented to the 18 families of the original Code Talkers. Bronze duplicates of the medal will be sold to the public through the U.S. Mint. President George Bush signed PL 110-420 on October 15, 2008, to provide medals for Native American Code Talkers as determined by the Secretary of Defense upon consulta-

tion with the tribes. Congressman Dan Boren introduced and led passage of legislation in the House of Representatives for the Code Talker Recognition Act. Senator James Inhofe introduced a companion Senate Bill that also honored the Code Talkers with a Gold Medal. Both of these leaders made sure that their staff

and their peers helped meet the goal set forward by moving the legislation through the House and Senate. “Congressman Boren and Senator Inhofe both deserve a lot of gratitude from Choctaws for their dedication to memorializing one of the greatest parts of our tribal history,” said Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

Chief Pyle said, “The Choctaw Nation is also thankful to the other members of the House and Senate who co-sponsored and voted for this legislation. Most of all, thanks to the Choctaws and friends who rallied to the cause by contacting their representatives and senators with a request  
**See Medals on Page 2**

## Tribal Council meets for October Regular Session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met on October 11 in regular session at Tushka Homma. New business addressed included:

- Approval for budget modifications to KEDDO Outreach, Administration on Aging Nutrition Services Incentive, Native American Caregiver Support Program, Administration Aging, Tribal Operation FY 2009, WIC and Family Violence Program.
- Approval of budgets for Elder Abuse Campaign Program, Project EMPOWER, Project HOUSE FY 2008/2009, Injury Prevention program and Vocation Rehabilitation Section 121 Program.
- Approve membership fee renewal to National Congress of American Indians - NCAI.
- Approve oil and gas lease in favor of Cardinal River Energy.

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council meets in regular session at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Council Chambers at Tushka Homma.

## Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association

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

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# Outstanding Elders honored



Walker Davis is named Choctaw Nation's Outstanding Male Elder for 2008. He accepts his award from Chief Greg Pyle and Matilda Davis, director of the Idabel Center.



Lorene Blaine of Durant is the Choctaw Nation's 2008 Outstanding Female Elder. Presenting her award are Councilman Ted Dosh and Chief Greg Pyle.

**More Outstanding Elders on Pages 8-9**

The Choctaw Nation honored its 2008 Outstanding Elders during a banquet October 16 in Durant. Chosen as this year's Outstanding Male and Outstanding Female elders are Walker Davis of Idabel and Lorene Blaine of Durant. Mr. Davis attended Boone and Muskogee schools and received an associate degree at Bacone Indian College. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1956 and was on Cape Esperance. He traveled to Japan nine times on the USS Oriskany, an aircraft carrier, and was stationed at Midway Island for months. He is a member of the Choctaw Veterans Association. Walker and Charlotte Davis are celebrating their 50th anniversary this December. They have one daughter and one granddaughter. Upon returning home from serving his country, Walker began a career in purchasing and selling franchises for auto dealerships, working in Arkansas, Seminole and Bethany. He chose to sell his dealership and return to Muskogee to care for his mother. He served as sales manager there until his retirement in 2005 when he returned to Idabel to be near his granddaughter. Mr. Davis is active with the Choctaw Community Center in Idabel, participating in the meals program and in activities, as well as serving as the volunteer wellness coordinator. He is proud of the groups' accomplishments. Walker is active with the Happy Heart Diabetes Wellness Program as well and it has made him dedicated to helping others. He enjoys fishing, hunting, being "Mr. Fixit," working with seniors, walking, genealogy, and watching football. Lorene Blaine attended school at Manning, Goodland, and Southeastern Oklahoma State College. She later took classes at the Business College in Denison. She and her husband have celebrated 50 years of marriage. They raised three children and three grandchildren, proudly supporting them in their academic and athletic endeavors. As a military spouse, Lorene has relocated from Sherman, Texas, to Tinker Air Force Base, as well as Germany and the states of Oregon and Washington. She returned to Oklahoma to help take care of her mother. Mrs. Blaine was employed as a summer school teacher's assistant and later hired as a teacher's aid with the Durant Public Schools. She served Choctaw Nation with 15 years of service in the Voter Registration Department where she assisted families in researching their heritage. She has 12 years of service with the U.S. Department of Justice Voting Rights as a Federal Observer that allowed her to observe in many tribal and state elections. In 1993, Lorene served as president of the Choctaw Inter-Tribal Council, an organization comprised of Native Americans who seek to preserve the Native American traditions by hosting an annual Spring pow wow and annual Fall Native American Arts & Crafts Show and Gospel Singing. She has been active in church work all of her life, beginning with the Presbyterian Church. In 1982, she and her husband moved their membership to Sulphur Springs Methodist Church in Bennington. She serves as treasurer for Sulphur Springs and Durant Fellowship. She has served as president for the Sulphur Springs United Methodist Women for 14 years and is also the Christian Education Coordinator. Her hobbies include traditional beadwork, making shawls, sewing, crocheting and cooking.

# Choctaw Nation remembers William Martin

Former District 5 Councilman William C. Martin, 82, passed away September 9, 2008, in Fort Smith. Mr. Martin served 28 years as a social worker for the Choctaw Nation and was elected as Councilman of District 5. In 1999, the William C. Martin Community Center in Stigler was named in his honor. A native of Lequire, he was born on March 16, 1926, to William "Billy" Martin and Charlotte Folsom Martin. He attended Lequire School, graduating the eighth grade. He worked as a farm laborer and traveled around the United States working on various farms. On October 23, 1944, he joined the U.S. Army, serving as Technician Fifth Grade in the European Theatre during

World War II. He was honorably discharged on November 7, 1948, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He married Robbie Marie Ford on January 4, 1949, in Van Buren, Arkansas. The couple made their home in Lequire and traveled extensively around the United States, working on farms and in cotton gins. William was saved in 1971 at Lequire Baptist Church and later received a call to the ministry. He was ordained as a minister in 1979 and served as pastor at many churches throughout the years, including Cedar, Lequire, Mountain Home, Only Way, and Thessalonians Baptist churches. He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters, Rena Reyes, Rosalie Carlton, and Emaline Jordan; and

several infant brothers and sisters. He is survived by his wife, Robbie, of the home; three sons, Charles Dee "Charlie" Hulsey and wife Anita of Checotah, William Clayton "Clay" Martin and wife Kayla of Kingman, Arizona, and Tim Miller and wife of Colorado; five daughters, Sharon Kay Storm of Bonham, Texas, Thelma Geraldine "Jerrie" Faulkner and husband David of Calera, Celia JoAnn Rodriguez of Dallas, Robbie Marie Sloan and husband Tandy of Lequire, and Venessa Ann Parker and husband Danny of Rogers, Arkansas. Mr. Martin is also survived by 23 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren; a sister, Vivian Jordan of Fort Collins, Colorado; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



# Chi Hullo Li given \$1.5 million grant

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has announced the award of a grant totaling \$1.5 million over three years to the Choctaw Nation's Chi Hullo Li Residential Treatment Center under the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Services Grant Program. The funding will be used to expand comprehensive, culturally sensitive, high-quality residential

treatment services for low-income Native American women in Oklahoma who are impacted by the effects of substance abuse. The program, with linkages to primary care, mental health and social services, is designed to help preserve and support the family and provide a healthy environment for family members. Acting Administrator Eric Broderick, DDS, See Chi Hullo Li on Page 4



Front row: Executive Director of Health Mickey Percy, Renee Baughman, Sandra Stroud, Michelle Fry, and Assistant Chief Gary Batton. In back, Dr. Eric Broderick, Philisha Austin, Mark Curran, Tiffani McCurtain, Krista Fincher, Amanda Barron and Tammy Stamps.



# Native Language Turns the tide of battle

*The conclusion of Juanita Jefferson’s story  
of the Choctaw Code Talkers ...*

## Early Life of an Indian Warrior

### Birth/Child

Preparing oneself for battle did not begin at enlistment or the training field at Camp Bowie, but it began on the day of his birth to an indigenous family. When birth became imminent, the mother slipped away from the house to give birth, usually under a large oak tree, delivered by the young mother or assisted by a sister. He grew up with a feeling of security and lived in harmony in the tradition of their customs and culture. An Indian baby was considered a blessing from Chihowa (God) and well cared for, without pampering, no baby talk, hugging or kissing. An Indian baby is not fretful or nervous and seldom cried. The child was expected to grow up to be “toughened physically, emotionally and spiritually strong.” Mother and Grandmother became the caregivers and watched as he grew from baby steps to child to youth to young man.

At an early age he must do things for himself. He did not receive help when he stumbled on a rock or when his little legs were not strong enough to keep up. They did not wait. Bushes were always in the way to slow him down, but his tough beginning helped him to become strong. He was taught to speak softly, not to laugh loudly or boisterously because it’s not Indian way. Self-discipline and honesty were taught at an early age to develop self-reliance. There were no harsh words or slapping the child into obedience.

### Youth

They came from a unique heritage. Their belief is unique. They lived in harmony with nature, enjoying the vastness of the sky. At night, the sky became alive with an array of celestial bodies. They counted stars until there were too many. They were familiar with the big dipper, the little dipper and the Northern star. At night, stars guided the night travelers from losing their directions. At any gathering, church, family or Council meeting, a campfire was built, men circled around the fire with a second circle of young men and the outer circle of women and children.

As darkness came, the speaker raised his peace pipe, praying, asking for wisdom as he told the history of their nation, their successes in war or defeats, the characters and kind of enemies whether in war or treaties, the famous warriors and chiefs in days past.

The young boys roamed the thick forest with unrestrained freedom, shooting at birds with blow guns or throwing a billy club at rabbits or squirrels. As the older boys gained experience and skill in the use of bow and arrows, they were allowed to use a gun. They were ready for hunting deer and buffalo. Grandfather taught them how to stalk a deer, to move quietly and not be noticed until they are close enough to attack for the kill. To kill was important as they have only one shell. They became true marksmen. Grandfather watched the younger boys, teaching them how to use bows and arrows, play stickball, climb rocks and mountains, running and wrestling. They took pride in proving their hardness by withstanding pain without flinching or showing any sign of pain. They ran from their home to the foothills, deep forest and tall steep mountains where they ran and climbed. They imitated bird calls good enough for the bird to come to them. They used bird calls to alert others of danger. Grandfather used them to bring others out of the deep forest when a wild beast is seen roaming. A call of a quail is heard from hill to hill to let the others know there is a herd of deer.

The young men were required to pass many harsh physical and mental exercises to build strong bodies and minds, to prepare them for hardship and suffering. They must control and practice strict moral code. The boys were not rushed to grow up, but encouraged to build their physical stamina by wrestling, swimming, and running races. A swift runner could help put food on the table by catching small game or a swift runner could run from danger or outrun an enemy. They enjoyed sports and competition.

As he grew, the Elders of the Church gave spiritual direction. He lived with strong faith in his Creator. He attended prayer services, singing Choctaw hymns and learning Bible

verses. The power of humbleness and peace comes from within.

### Patriotism

One of the Choctaw peoples’ tribal pride was patriotism, regardless of the historical status of the tribal government. They have proven themselves to possess a spirit of true and noble patriotism that has never been surpassed. They served with valor in all wars the United States has engaged in.

They took an active part in the Civil War on the Confederacy side, as many of the tribal leaders were slave owners or had been slave owners. During World War I and World War II, the Choctaw served their country bravely and honorably. Again this was repeated in Korea and Vietnam and other conflicts.

### Heritage: Departure/return of a Choctaw Warrior

Mother and dad were surprised but proud when their son told them of his enlistment. The day before his departure, the family held a community singing at the Church to honor their son, “Ushi,” soon to depart. The family butchered a hog to be cooked in a large iron pot out of doors. Other families and friends brought food to spread on the table for a feast. The worship was held under a brush arbor, tabernacle or a church building. At the close of singing, the young man was called to stand before the congregation for the handshake. The Preacher extolled of his young life and now, “He is leaving as a man.” They formed a line to offer a handshake. This was a sad occasion as family and friends tried to control their emotion. This goodbye could be final. Fellow hunters held their friend’s hand, praying and shedding tears for fear they may never see the departing friend again.

When the veteran returned to his home at the conclusion of the war and he made his appearance, his family crowded around him, shaking his hand. The Church welcomed him back into the tribal fold with customary singing and feasting in a more delightful gathering. The Elders of the Church encouraged the returning warriors “to put away the training of killing in war behind him,” laying their hands on him, saying to the veteran warrior, “Let the memories of the war be forgotten, let the white man’s way of life be forgotten, and let memories of death go out of your life forever, and return to a quiet, peaceful life.” This is an honor the returning veteran looked forward to.

The graves of Code Talkers may be found throughout the Choctaw Nation, in a well-maintained cemetery, in a lonely country cemetery, in an abandoned grave. As years pass, the memory of the growing generation becomes eroded and obscures the prominent role, the heroic action of their ancestors.

### Closing

The Choctaw soldiers enlisted to fight a war, receiving basic training in warfare, but because he could speak the language fluently, he was selected and sought from the front line for a special mission. He walked the walk as a Choctaw Code Talker. These brave souls with humble spirits, mighty warriors, devised and implemented a secret code using their language, a talking



## Code Talkers of World War I

Albert Billy  
Mitchell Bobb  
Victor Brown  
Ben Carterby  
George Davenport  
Joe Davenport  
James Edwards  
Tobias Frazier  
Ben Hampton  
Noel Johnson  
Otis Leader  
Soloman Louis  
Pete Maytubby  
Jeff Nelson  
Joseph Oklahombi  
Robert Taylor  
Walter Veach  
Calvin Wilson

code, and helped turn the tide of war leading to the closure of World War I, November 11, 1918. The German’s intelligence officer could not decode the message written in the Choctaw language in relaying secret military messages.

Talking in codes to relay military messages was the best kept secret among the Code Talkers. If someone asked a Code Talker how it feels to be a hero, he would reply, “No hero, I was doing what I was told to do.” If by chance the topic of their secret mission surfaced, the majority of the members dismissed the impression with “was there such a mission, because it was not written in the history of U.S. Warfare,” nor did the men who participated tell of their experience.

Members of the Code Talkers wondered to themselves what it meant to be a Code Talker. “They looked us up in the trenches and foxholes and told us to report to company headquarters. It made us feel good to think we could help the war effort in our own way, the Indian way. What can I do, I’m just a Choctaw, but we were taught to do whatever is asked of us, never question. We love our country. This may be our chance to prove we are able to protect our homeland in our Indian way. Unknowingly, everything we did, we did it all of our lives in our home country.”

A story told in the past was scoffed at and jeered. This story was heard on the campground near Whitesboro in 1950s. Private Edwards, an eloquent speaker, was telling of the Code Talker’s experience. “On the France battle front, they selected for a special secret mission and the soldier who could speak the Choctaw language fluently was pulled from foxholes to headquarters.”

They made up a code that only another soldier who spoke the language could understand. He was on the front line when he received a secret code from headquarters. He translated the message for his commander and he wrote military orders as he was told ... Those who were listening scoffed at the special secret mission story and said, “You would think they won the war by themselves when many Choctaw soldiers gave their lives,” and jeered him to silence. The elders attending the quarterly conference rebuked

him for telling his experience on the Church ground and they wanted to hear no more of it. In recent years, another Code Talker, Albert Billy, made an effort to tell his story as a Code Talker but was not taken seriously. Another story that surfaced was from Ben Carterby, a Code Talker who shared his experience with my Dad at a Church meeting at Big Lick UMC near Snow, Oklahoma. The full story will never be heard and all the Code Talkers have gone to their grave harboring their valuable contribution to the war. The stories were fascinating and unbelievable. They were wise to remain silent or they would meet the same fate as Pvt. Edwards, Billy and possibly Carterby. Edwards was buried at the cemetery of James-Folsom Church.

The Choctaw singers from the Talihina vicinity were practicing patriotic songs in Choctaw and felt it would be most appropriate to hold a memorial service for Private Edwards. We asked Gregory E. Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation, for his approval. He approved and provided assistance for an unforgettable memorial service for Private Edwards. The Veterans Administration provided a granite stone inscribed with “Choctaw Code Talker.”

They were the unrecognized and unsung heroes. This account tells of human courage – without warning, without orders, or any type of instructions from headquarters. They were found on the battle front, pulled from foxholes and taken to headquarters. They came from a background where the family had no telephone, no communication system of any type. They were fluent in their native language but never translated messages on a handheld field telephone in highly precise and technical terms. It was an awesome contribution of devising and implementing a Choctaw Code in military terms.

From primitive settings to training fields to battlefields to the U.S. Army strategy room, they served the Choctaw country with pride and their country, America, honorably, succeeding in a key role that led to the conclusion of the war.

### Awards

In September 1986, Choctaw Nation Medals of Valor were presented to families of the original eight Code Talkers during the annual Labor Day

Festival. The first official recognition came from the Choctaw Nation.

In November 1989, at a ceremony on the front steps of the Oklahoma State Capitol Building, the Choctaw Nation accepted the honor of the “Chevalier de l’Ordre National du Merite” from the French government in recognition of the important role played in the successful conclusion of World War I. This is the highest honor France can bestow to another nation.

On May 6, 1995, at Tusahoma, there was a dedication of a Choctaw War Memorial bearing the names of Choctaw warriors killed in action while defending our nation in wartime.

Under the leadership of Chief Gregory E. Pyle, there was an official opening of a special exhibit at Camp Mabry’s Texas Military Forces Museum in Austin on September 16, 2007. “Descendants of the Choctaw Code Talkers’ hearts were brimming with fulfillment as they accepted long-awaited awards on behalf of the men whose unique service to the military helped the Allied Expeditionary Forces defeat the German Army ...”

It has been an honor to write about the Choctaw Code Talkers and it’s as if I was sharing their excitement as they were memorizing the military technical terms with Choctaw words, learning how to translate messages to be transmitted, and learning how to use the field telephone. To know how vital the devising of the communication system is to hasten the end of war they pushed their ability to memorize to the limit and as they say to themselves, “I’m only a Chahta, but I’m learning how to do it.” They felt good about themselves. What they did was outstanding and noble. They would be the first to say, “I’m not noble,” makosh nana hokma. You’re proud because they are your people and in the next instant, you’re angry because discrimination toward them never ceased.

May we continue to preserve our rich heritage as we look back to our simple but glorious past and promote the culture, language, patriotism and freedom with dignity and quiet tribal pride.

With respect and honor to the Choctaw Code Talkers, all deceased, who are no longer forgotten Americans, “Chahta Sia Hoke!”

## Medals continued from Page 1

for co-sponsorship on HR 4544 and S 2681. This personal touch from people all over our country is what achieved success. This is the greatest example of teamwork I have seen.”

Several visits to Washington, D.C., meeting with hundreds of United States Representatives and Senators offices resulted in 300 co-sponsors for the House legislation and 73 on the Senate side.

“Congressman Boren has worked many hours on the passage of HR 4544. Boren’s dedication to the military heroes of our tribe is evident. Both Congressman Boren and Senator Inhofe are great Oklahomans and I am proud to know they were the sponsors of such historic legislation,” said Chief Pyle. “The Choctaw people, especially descendants of the Code Talkers, are grateful to them both for this commemoration of a unique use of our language by 18 Choctaw soldiers.”

Chief Pyle continued, “We are now looking forward to the process of designing, minting and presenting the medals.”

The original Choctaw Code Talkers were: Joseph Oklahombi, Robert Taylor, Ben Carterby, James Edwards, Ben Hampton, Solomon Louis, Mitchell Bobb, Albert Billy, Tobias Frazier, Jeff Nelson, Victor Brown, Walter Veach, Joseph Davenport, Pete Maytubby, Jeff Nelson, Calvin Wilson, George Davenport and Noel Johnson.

Indian soldiers who used their languages to develop codes for the U.S. military are identified in the bill as members of the Assiniboine, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Chippewa/Oneida, Choctaw, Comanche, Cree, Crow, Hopi, Kiowa, Menominee, Meskwaki, Muscogee, Osage, Pawnee, Sac and Fox, Seminole, and Sioux tribes.

<b>Gregory E. Pyle</b> <i>Chief</i>	The Official Monthly Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  Judy Allen, Executive Director Vonna Shults, Web Director Melissa Stevens, Circulation Director Janine Dills, Executive Assistant  Lisa Reed, Editor Karen Jacob, Assistant Editor Brenda Wilson, Administrative Assistant  P.O. Box 1210 Durant, OK 74702 (580) 924-8280 • (800) 522-6170 Fax (580) 924-4148 www.choctawnation.com e-mail: bishinik@choctawnation.com	<b>Gary Batton</b> <i>Assistant Chief</i>
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BISHINIK® 2008





*From the Desk of  
Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

This is my favorite time of year. In addition to the holiday fun that is being planned for families to enjoy, a lot of opportunities exist for my staff and I to travel and visit the different communities. I know some of the best cooks in the world are right here in southeast Oklahoma, because I have been privileged to first-

hand experience in many of our areas.

Thanksgiving dinners are among favorite events for all of us, and crowds are enormous at the Choctaw Community Centers when Council members host a good old-fashioned turkey and dressing meal! Choctaws of all ages enjoy the food, singing and laughter at these gatherings. I am really impressed by the numbers of children who are brought to the special activi-

ties the tribe has for young people. Children's Christmas parties are always big events to look forward to and the recent Halloween festival at Tushka Homma had about 800 young people in attendance.

The Council are very sensitive to the needs of people and provide the community meals, special baskets for the needy in their districts and activities for the young people to assist during this time of year. One holiday that we celebrate on

an annual basis is much more solemn – Veterans Day. What a tremendous opportunity to pay tribute to our heroes, our warriors who make our lives safe!

Every November 11th, we say a public "thank you" to our soldiers and veterans at a ceremony at Tushka Homma. I hope I see many of you at events I will attend in the coming weeks.

May God bless you and your family!

## Woman of the Year is an inspiration to us all



*From the Desk of  
Assistant Chief Gary Batton*

I have met many incredible people, but among the most inspiring is one of our own Choctaw tribal members, Rita Aragon. I first heard Major General Aragon deliver a stirring speech at our 2007 Veterans Ceremony at Tushka Homma and was not surprised when The Journal Record chose this exceptional lady as one of the 50 top women in Oklahoma.

I had the pleasure to be on hand at the banquet in Oklahoma City as The Journal Record honored each of these women and I joined in the standing ovation as Rita Aragon was announced the 2008 Woman of the Year.

Rita has accomplished so much. The mother of two daughters, she began her

educational career in Oklahoma City where she worked as a teacher, counselor and later as principal.

Joining the Air National Guard was the first step in a burgeoning career in the military where she became the first female to hold the rank of brigadier general in the Oklahoma National Guard and the first female commander of the Oklahoma Air National Guard. She has also served at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Rita has retired from the Air National Guard and returned to education as the director of advanced programs at the University of Oklahoma's College of Continuing Education. She is also active on several boards in her community.

She says she found support in the men and women who serve our nation and in turn grew in ability and independence.

Rita is a shining example for us all.



## Yes, Jesus is coming back

We are thankful for this Special Day, Thanksgiving Day. A day declared by our forefathers to thank God for His bountiful blessings.

We thank God the Father who sent His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for our sins, which is death, on the cross.

Paul the Apostle wrote in his letter to the Corinthians that Christ died, He was buried, and that He rose again on the third day. This is the Gospel, the good news of salvation. (I Corinthians 15:1-4).

It was by His Love, by His Mercy, and by His Grace (Ephesians 2:8) He has given to us this free Gift of Salvation. Have you accepted this Gift?

Paul reminds us to remember the Gospel with the partaking of the Lord's Supper. We read in I Corinthians 11:26: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come."

"Till He Come." Yes, Jesus is coming back. He Himself said He will return. We read in Luke 21:28:

28. "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Also, will you read in Luke 24:25-27? There are many other passages of Scripture that tell us of His soon return.

That first message our Lord Jesus Christ sent from heaven back to earth is a blessing to me. It is recorded in Acts 1:9-11:

9. And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel:

11. Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven.

To believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, His Return is an encouragement, there is no fear, but at the same time there is a burden for unbelievers to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Jesus came the first time as our Savior, to forgive our sins when we agree with Him that we are sinners and receive Him. (Read Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23).

Jesus Christ will come the

### Chaplain's Corner



**Rev. Bertram Bobb  
Tribal Chaplain**

second time as our Judge. Judge what or who? He will judge those who have rebelled against Him and have rejected Him. He will set things right.

The Bible teaches the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and this will be a visible, bodily return of Christ to this earth.

We know there is no event more certain than the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. We read these words in I Corinthians 15:51-52:

51. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep,, but we shall all be changed.

52: In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

When the Lord Jesus comes, there will be a company of believers who shall never taste death, for they shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. This is called in the Bible "That Blessed Hope."

This glorious event, when Jesus Christ comes again to raise all the believing dead, change all the living believers, and catch them all up to Himself may occur anytime.

Jesus said in the Gospel of John 14:2-3:

2. In my Father's house are

many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

We are nearer that event than we have ever been and one of these days it will happen, and we read in I Thessalonians 4:16-18:

16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

When this event happens, it will be sudden, so secret, that the unsaved who remain will be utterly confused, by the unexplainable, sudden, disappearance of millions and millions of believers without leaving a clue as to the destination of their sudden departure.

Only those who have been born again will hear the shout when it occurs. Only the saved will respond and understand the shout, and rise to meet the Lord in the air.

The Lord Jesus Christ is coming again. Jesus will bring our loved ones, those who have been born again, with Him, and we shall be reunited with them, never to part again.

Are you ready to meet the Lord Jesus Christ? If you are not ready or not sure, you can get ready by praying this prayer, "Oh Lord, I realize I am a sinner, I trust Jesus Christ as my Savior."

May God bless you. Pray for America and our leaders. Pray for our spiritual leaders. Pray for our men and women in the armed services and pray for our veterans.



# CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton invite you to drive through the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds at Tuskahoma to see the bright holiday lights.


Christmas in the Park opens December 2 and will be open all week from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Hot chocolate will be served Wednesday-Saturday.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS


*in the Choctaw Nation  
Senior Citizen Dinners & Kids Christmas Parties*

<b>Antlers Kids.....</b>	<b>December 2 .....6 p.m., age 12 &amp; under</b>
<b>Atoka Kids.....</b>	<b>December 2 .....6 p.m., at the Atoka Community Center on Liberty Road</b>
<b>Bethel Kids.....</b>	<b>December 9 .....6 p.m.</b>
<b>Broken Bow Kids .....</b>	<b>December 8 .....6 p.m.</b>
<b>Buffalo Valley Kids .....</b>	<b>December 2 .....6 p.m.</b>
<b>Burkhart Kids .....</b>	<b>December 4 .....7 p.m.</b>
<b>Coalgate Seniors.....</b>	<b>December 10 ...12 noon</b>
<b>Coalgate Kids .....</b>	<b>December 6 .....1 p.m., age 12 &amp; under December 12 ...6 p.m., age 13-18</b>
<b>Crowder Seniors.....</b>	<b>December 17 ...11:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Crowder Kids .....</b>	<b>December 13 ...1 p.m.</b>
<b>Durant Kids .....</b>	<b>December 4 .....6 p.m.</b>
<b>Eagletown Kids.....</b>	<b>December 8 .....7:30 p.m. at the school cafeteria</b>
<b>Heavener Kids .....</b>	<b>December 1 .....7 p.m.</b>
<b>Hugo Seniors.....</b>	<b>December 17 ...12 noon</b>
<b>Hugo Kids .....</b>	<b>December 5 .....6 p.m. at Housing Culture Center</b>
<b>Idabel Kids.....</b>	<b>December 8 .....6 p.m.</b>
<b>McAlester Kids.....</b>	<b>December 13 ...1 p.m.</b>
<b>Poteau Seniors.....</b>	<b>December 10 ...11:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Poteau Kids.....</b>	<b>December 6 .....4-6 p.m., age 10 &amp; under</b>
<b>Quinton Kids .....</b>	<b>December 4 .....6 p.m.</b>
<b>Smithville Kids .....</b>	<b>December 2 .....7 p.m.</b>
<b>Spiro Kids .....</b>	<b>December 8 .....4 to 6 p.m., age 10 &amp; under</b>
<b>Spiro Seniors.....</b>	<b>December 17 ...11 a.m.</b>
<b>Stigler Kids .....</b>	<b>December 5 .....4 to 6 p.m.</b>
<b>Stigler Seniors.....</b>	<b>December 10 ...11 a.m.</b>
<b>Summerfield Kids.....</b>	<b>December 7 .....2-4 p.m., age 10 &amp; under</b>
<b>Talihina Kids .....</b>	<b>December 5 .....7 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuskahoma Kids.....</b>	<b>December 8 .....6 p.m.</b>
<b>Wilburton Kids.....</b>	<b>December 6 .....2 p.m.</b>
<b>Wilburton Seniors.....</b>	<b>December 17 ...12 noon</b>
<b>Wright City Kids.....</b>	<b>December 11.....6 p.m.</b>
<b>Wright City Seniors.....</b>	<b>December 18 ...12 noon</b>



### A Choctaw Christmas CD

16 Christmas songs  
in the Choctaw Language  
Price: \$10.00



### Choctaw Nation Book Store

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# AFL Care Project hosts retreat

Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life Care Project hosted its first AFL Retreat. Topics of discussion for the retreat included Infant CPR/First Aid Techniques, Importance of Childhood Immuniations, Car Seat Safety, Budgeting Your Finances, Birth Control Methods, Personal Exploration with Career Development and Difficulties along with Learning Experiences for Teen Parenting and Teen Healthy Relationships.

For cultural enrichment entertainment, Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach Services taught the AFL group the meaning of the Native traditional stickball game and the AFL participants were allowed to have interaction with the game itself. All was of great success to assisting our participants with knowledge and skills needed in preparing them for their future.

The following AFL participants received certificates for completion: Marissa Marris, Natalie Pugh, April Myers, Staci Ride-nour, Joshua Ridenour, Cheryl Hudson, Jenny Barnett, Crystal Peace, Kenny Peace, Brandy Comley, Rachel Comley, Ilissa Smith, Brent Smith, Sherry Ann Montgomery, Nathan Turner, Tara Payne, Jeremy Head, Tammy Ayers, Dustin Ayers, David Hamilton, Chelsie Parsley, Jessica Cooley, Chairity Hass, Britney Rodenberger, Amanda Pond and Maisie Rogers.

The Choctaw Nation Adolescent Life Project is an innovative program focused on pregnant teenagers, their child, male partner, and extended family members. The AFL provides opportunities for a brighter future through integrated services within the



Choctaw Nation and external agencies. Participants will expand their knowledge through prenatal education, healthy relationship skills and parenting workshops. Striving for healthy outcomes in adolescent family lives is the purpose of our program. Services are provided through Choctaw Nation Outreach Service to pregnant teens under the age of 19 expecting a Native American baby.

For more information or questions about eligibility, contact Angela Dancer, Director of the AFL Project, at 580-326-7758 or 877-285-6893.

## Chi Hullo Li

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MPH, made the announcement September 26 in Talihina.

“When a mother is mis-using alcohol or drugs, the whole family suffers,” Broderick said. “This grant to the Chi Hullo Li Residential Treatment Center will help facilitate recovery and preserve and strengthen families.”

The total amount for the grant award period is \$1.5 million for up to three years. First-year funding totals \$500,000. Continuation awards are subject to availability of funds and progress achieved by the awardee.

The program will be administered by SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

For additional information about this grant and other SAMHSA programs, please visit [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov).



**Oklahoma  
Tobacco  
Helpline**

**1-800-QUIT-NOW**

## 10 weight-loss ideas

— and these you can do sitting down!

The 10 tips below are designed for adults, not children. But by eating smart, week-in, week-out, you can set an example for your child that will positively influence their eating patterns as they grow older.

1. Sip water or diet soda instead of regular soda.
2. Add mustard instead of mayonnaise on sandwiches (or use low-fat mayo).
3. Top salads with salsa instead of salad dressing.
4. Order thin-crust rather than thick-crust pizza.
5. Eat half a bagel instead of a whole one.

## WIC

6. Make your sandwiches open-faced. (Use only one slice of bread).

7. Drink skim rather than whole milk.


8. Keep meat servings to the size of your fist (or smaller).

9. Order small hamburgers without dressings instead of large, specialty burgers.

10. Savor small, bite-sized candy bars instead of larger sizes.

You can think of many more small ways to cut calories that are easy to do without making you feel deprived, or leave you hungry and what a difference small changes can make!

Courtesy of MA Department of Public Health



### Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

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

## NURSERY NEWS

### Hotubbees welcome two boys

#### Daniel Alexander Burgess

Daniel Alexander Burgess was born February 6, 2008, at Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma, Durant. He weighed 5 pounds 1.7 ounces and was 19 inches long. Alex is the grandson of Joe and Cindy Hotubbee, Leslie Burgess and Danny and Rhonda Burgess. His great-grandparents are Ben and Jan Hotubbee, Robbie Vursels, Patsy and Robert McCraw and Cathline Doyle. He also has two great-great-grandmother, Gracie Bankston and Ollie Damron.



#### Dustin Allen Joyner

Dustin Allen Joyner was born February 11, 2008, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, Talihina. He weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and measured 18 inches long. Dusty is the son of Misty and Dustin Joyner and he has two sisters, Megan and Shay Joyner. Dusty is the grandson of Joe and Cindy Hotubbee, Rita Paredes and Frank Joyner. His great-grandparents are Robbie Vursels and Ben and Jan Hotubbee. He has two great-great-grandmothers, Gracie Bankston and Velma James.



#### Timothy Bockover/Matthias

Timothy Bockover/Matthias was born June 15, 2008, weighing 8 pounds and measuring 21 inches long. He was happily welcomed by his family, mom Roshanna, dad Tim, sisters Sophia, Nicole and Danielle, Grampa Bert and Grandma Ava. Grandma helped deliver Timothy at home.



#### Racin Lee Hilton

Racin Lee Hilton was born September 10, 2008, weighing 7 pounds 9 ounces and measuring 20.8 inches long. Proud parents are Charles Hilton Jr. and Patricia Burgan of Clayton. His sisters are Kelli Hilton and Charley Hilton. Racin’s grandparents are Charles and Ava Hilton of Tuskahoma and Melvin Burgan of Clayton. Great-grandparents are Frieda Hilton of Broken Bow and Wilson Taylor Sr of Sobol. Great-great-grandma is Ida Taylor of Sobol and the late Alvin Hilton and the late Grandma Deloris Taylor of Sobol.



#### Chase Len Rolen

Randall, Jordan, Krischelle and MacKenzy would like to welcome the new arrival of their cousin, Chase Len Rolen. He was born June 6, 2008, at Carl Albert Hospital in Ada. Chase weighed 6 pounds 11 ounces and was 18.8 inches long. Proud parents are Terry Len Jr. and Kathie Rolen of Ada. Chase is the first grandson of Terry Rolen Sr. and Tersa Little, both of Fittstown, and Albert and Elaine Wallace of Ada. He is the great-grandson of Christin Rolan of Tishomingo and Ida Little of Ada. He is also the great-grandson of the late Josh and Minnie Wallace of Pauls Valley and the late Isaac and Lula Bohanon of Paris, Texas. Chase was welcomed by his uncles, aunts, cousins and the rest of the family.



#### Cohen James Blemmel

Cohen James Blemmel was born August 21, 2008, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. He weighed 5 pounds 9 ounces and was 19 inches long. He was born to proud parent Carly Jo Blemmel. His great-great-grandmother is Ester Cummings; great-grandmother, Neva Jean Thomas; great-grandfather, Jerry Blemmel; and Paps and Nino are Jim and Kathy Blemmel. He is the great-great-great-grandson of Lof Olson who was an original Choctaw enrollee.



#### Lillian Jade Wahkinney

Lillian Jade Wahkinney was born August 4, 2008, in Ada. She weighed 9 pounds 14 ounces and was 21 inches long. Lily’s parents are Gena Isom and Joey Wahkinney. Her sisters are Saphire and Raven. She is the granddaughter of Kevin and Vera Wahkinney of Lawton, Patricia Roberts of Wilbur, Oregon, and the late Harold Isom of Daisy. Great-grandparents include Flora Isom of Daisy, and Roxie Tsotigh and Russell Wahkinney, both of Lawton.



#### Capri Milagros Rodriguez

Capri Milagros Rodriguez was born August 26, 2008, to Kimberly Ginn Rodriguez and Leonardo Rodriguez Grados. Sharing their happiness in the blessed event are her grandparents, Luisa and Altio Rodriguez of Peru, the late Ricky Ginn, Robert and Cheryl Rikli Farrar of Oklahoma City. Capri is of noble Choctaw heritage, her great-grandmother is Virginia Lee Bond Grider; great-great-grandfather is LeRoy Bond, and her great-great-great-grandfather is Henry J. Bond, the first treasurer in Atoka County. Her birth was celebrated with a blessing on September 28 at the LDS Stake Center in Oklahoma City. Her middle name, Milagros, is from the word, “Miracles,” in Spanish – and a miracle she is. Welcome, Capri!



#### Kollin William Davis

Jacky and Lacey Davis wish to announce the birth of their son, Kollin William Davis, born August 29, 2008, at the Carl Albert Indian Hospital in Ada. Kollin is the grandson of William and Tammy Jones of Cumberland and Arvil and Cheryl Davis of Quinton. Great-grandparents are Frank and Janell Dice of Cumberland, Gilbert and Josephine Bacom. RN, of Quinton and Cleo Davis of Corinne. Great-great-grandparents are Alvin Long of Cumberland and Beulah Mickel of Corinne. Kollin is the second great-grandson of original enrollee Edward William Jones.



## To the Youth of the Nation

## Investments

By Preston Wells  
Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

Economic crisis. Governments. Bailouts. Republicans. Democrats. Presidents. The Senate. Money, money, money. Hear these words enough lately? I know I have, but it is the way that we handle our country that is so important.

As youth, what should we think of our changing country? Should we get worried like many adults are, or should we just lay back and watch it happen? I find that no one is giving a positive answer or message about our country anymore. Everyone is so tied up in our economy that they forget what their lives are based on, or what they’re not based on.

As a young person, I find myself interested in the world so I too am paying attention to the presidential election, the stock market, and the reaction of the community to the country’s changes. Everything seems to be so negative, and I am fed up with it.

We all should not be tied up with the topsy turvy stock market, or the scare tactics of politicians, or the overly powerful media. These things should not rank number one on our list of importance. Having amazing friendships, spending time with family, and getting outside to smell the fresh air would rank pretty high on my list. Being able to invest our time in people that we know and hold dear is much more important than putting our time into politicians that we don’t even know.

Building on a new friendship would be something I could actually handle and take care of, whereas investing all of my time into our government would take 9000 percent of me. Therefore I rely more on friends and family members to make my life, not politicians or the media.

I’m not saying that money isn’t important or that the government is unreliable. I’m saying that if we center our lives around such things, we may ultimately be disappointed of our outcome in life. Let’s center our lives around love and friendships. We must be positive! Build relationships with friends, spend time with family, and enjoy life!

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### ANTLERS

December 3: Idabel 12-2 p.m.; Broken Bow 9-11 a.m. (market closed).

December 10: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed).

Market open weekdays: December 1-23.

Closed for meeting December 12. Closed for inventory December 26-31. Closed for holiday December 24-25.

### DURANT

Market open weekdays: December 1-23.

Closed for meeting December 12. Closed for inventory December 26-31. Closed for holiday December 24-25.

### McALESTER

November 3: Stigler 9-12 (market closed).

Market open weekdays: December 1-23.

Closed for meeting December 12. Closed for inventory December 26-31. Closed for holiday December 24-25.

### POTEAU

Market open weekdays: December 1-23.

Closed for meeting December 12. Closed for inventory December 26-31. Closed for holiday December 24-25.

## 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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# PEOPLE YOU KNOW



### Happy 70th birthday

Wanda Loise Cauthon celebrated her 70th birthday with lots of family, food, gifts and cards. Louise is employed by Stigler Choctaw Child Development Center. Her father is original Choctaw enrollee, David S. Blaylock.

Wanda is pictured with her daughters, Carolyn and Sharon; granddaughters, Jennifer and Jamie; grandson, Shannon; and great-grandsons, Dustin, Ethan, Trenton, and Josh.

### Happy birthday

Happy birthday to cousins Aysha Bui and Brittney Williams who share the same birth date of September 14. Brittney is now 14 years old and Aysha is 10.

Aysha is the daughter of Wiley Bui of Shawnee and Christine Williams of Bennington. Her grandparents are Olin and Bernice Williams of Bennington and Nhan and Noreen Bui of Shawnee. Brittney is the daughter of Joe Williams of Norman and Tammy Williams of Oklahoma City. Her grandparents are Olin and Bernice Williams of Bennington and Jimmy Brewer of Durant and Brenda Brewer of Durant.



### Mother and son place first

Lyn McDade and Hunter McDade of Malvern, Arkansas, both took first place in their age class at the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival 5k. Lyn is the granddaughter and Hunter is the great-grandson of Cotton and Jim Davis of Fort Towson.



### Happy 17th birthday

Happy birthday Seth James from Fred, Shar, Jared, Jordan, Chey, Brandi and Brady.

### Birthday wishes

Happy birthday to Kenneth Long Jr. on November 5. His parents are Kenneth Sr. and Crystal Long from Whitesboro. Kenneth enjoys riding their horse, Ella Mae, and working cows with his dad. He attends Albion School.



### Happy 15th birthday

Happy birthday Cameron Hare from Aunt Fred, Shar, Jared, Jordan, Chey, Brandi and Brady.

### Sisters celebrate birthdays

Happy birthday to Mackenzey Jalee and Krischelle Dawn. Mackenzey celebrated her first birthday on October 8. Krischelle celebrated her 3rd birthday on September 25.

Mackenzey and Krischelle are the daughters of Cebrane and Becky Wallace of Ada. They have one sisters, Amy Helms of North Carolina, and a brother, David Kendall of Belmont, North Carolina. Machenzey and Krischelle are granddaughters to Albert and Elaine Wallace of Ada and Roger Pilant of Keifer and Debra Rumpfelt of Loris, South Carolina. Their great-grandparents are the late Josh and Minnie Wallace of Pauls Valley, the late Isaac and Lula Bohanon of Paris, Texas, and Jean English of Iberia, Missouri. Also wishing them happy birthdays are uncles, Vincent Wallace, T.J. Rolen, Will Bohanon, and Ricky Bohanon; aunts, Kathie Rolen, Claire Bohanon, and Cynitha Bohanon; and cousins, Chase Rolen, Jordan Bohanon, Randall Bohanon, Jennipher Pursivallet, Gary Trent, Felicia Trent, Marissa Trent, Glen Bohanon, Krystal Bohanon, Jaxon Bohanon and the rest of the family.



### Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Angela Renee Truel Bergman on October 24. Angela is a descendent of Edith Semple who was descended from Peter P. Pitchlynn.

### Happy 3rd birthday

Trinity Skye Thorne of Moore celebrated her 3rd birthday with family and friends at Chuck E. Cheese.

Trinity is the granddaughter of Gene and LaHoma Crauthers of Oklahoma City and the great-granddaughter of the late William T. and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



### Happy 13th birthday

Jeffrey Keith Davis of Texarkana, Texas, celebrated his 13th birthday of September 14. His parents are Keith and Sharon Davis. His grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis, and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel. His great-grandmother is Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



### 50th wedding anniversary

Jerry and Jolene Mitchell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 7.

Their children and grandchildren gathered for the weekend of fun in Scottsdale, Arizona. Jerry and Jolene have lived in Yuma, Arizona, for the last 35 years. They are both retired. They have three children; Kelly Coyle of Ashland, Oregon, Patrick Mitchell of Mesa, Arizona, and Kathy Ward of Yuma, Arizona.

Jolene is the granddaughter of Bertie Hendrix and the daughter of Holmes E. Jackson.



### Happy 71st birthday

Do you know this guy? He is standing in front of his new home. He celebrated his 71st birthday on October 14.

Happy birthday to C.O. Houston from your wife, Shirley; sisters, Vivian and Wynette; brother-in-law, Sid, and your special girl, Carol.



### Happy birthday

Mattie B. Jones celebrated her birthday on September 9 at her home in Kiowa with her family and friends.



### Happy birthday twins

I am wishing a happy birthday to my twin babies, Brandi and Brady James. They will be 10 years old on November 23. Happy birthday and God bless you, Mom and family.



### Happy 18th birthday

We would like to wish our son, Jaqui Ray Larney, a happy 18th birthday on August 16 from his family; Gary, Lori, Nate and Dustin.



### Happy 17th birthday

We would like to wish our son Dustin Jay Larney a happy 17th birthday on November 29 from his family; Gary, Lori, Nate and Jaq.



### Look who turned 10

Randall would like to wish his brother, Jordan Isaac, a happy 10th birthday on June 4. Jordan is in the fourth grade and enjoys swimming, riding bikes, playing volleyball and spending time with Uncle Al and Aunt Elaine plus all his cousins.

Jordan is the son of Ricky Bohanon and the late Rolena Bohanon of Ada. He is the grandson of the late Isaac and Lula Bohanon of Paris, Texas, and the late Josh and Minnie Wallace of Pauls Valley. Wishing him a happy birthday are his Uncle Will and Aunt Claire Bohanon; and cousins, Cebrane Wallace, Becky Wallace, Krischelle Wallace, Mackenzey Wallace, Vincent Wallace, T.J. Rolen, Kathie Rolen, Chase Rolen, Kayley Bertis, Felicia Trent, Marissa Trent, Glen Bohanon, Krystal Bohanon and Jaxon Bohanon.

Jordan would wish his Uncle Al a happy 42nd birthday on June 8, and a happy birthday to Jaxon on June 30.



### Happy birthday

Wishing Cheyenne James, a happy birthday on November 14. She will be 12 years old. Happy birthday, Jubee, and God bless you, from mom and family.



### Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Kendall Cogburn on November 24. Her mother is Sequina Cogburn from Hugo. Happy birthday from your family.



### Happy 13th birthday

Wyatt Lane Williams of Idabel celebrated his 13th birthday of September 9. His parents are Barry and Linda Williams. His grandparents are Arvel Williams and the late Pauline Williams of Summerfield, Oklahoma, and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel.



### Happy 11th birthday

Happy 11th birthday to Jerika Paige Hininger who celebrated her birthday on October 24. She is the daughter of Kevin and Shelia Halley and the granddaughter of Ruth Ott Carcliff.



### Happy birthday to Councilman Delton Cox

The EVS, Maintenance and Groundskeeping Department at the Choctaw Casino in Pocola would like to wish Councilman Delton Cox a big Choctaw happy birthday!

### Happy 50th birthday

Happy 50th birthday to Junior Blaine. His goals are to finish school at Kiamichi Technology Center. He is a great person and loves to help others when they need a hand. His favorite quote is “Don’t look back.” Happy birthday from all your classmates at Kiamichi Technology Center.



### Happy 12th birthday

We would like to wish Joseph Peters a happy 12th birthday on October 31. Happy birthday from Aunt Fred, Shar, Jared, Jordan, Chey, Brandi, Brady and Grandma Lamb.



### Look who’s 5

Happy birthday to Ethan Gower who turned 5 on October 16, from mom, Aunt Jamie, Uncle Jess, papa and granny.



### Happy second birthday

Jaxon Tulli Sam Jefferson turned 2 years old on September 3. He was born during Labor Day Festival in 2006. Jaxon celebrated with friends and family in Wright City.

His parents are Austin and Julie Jefferson and his grandparents are Teresa McKeever and Jimmy Lawhon and the late Roy McKeever of Broken Bow, and Austin and Linda Jefferson of Bethel; great-grandparents are Dixie Mussett and Sam Botsie McGough, Marilyn Jefferson and Melissia Bohanan and the late Robert Bohanan and O’sam Jefferson.



### Choctaw boxer

My son, George Tahdooahnippah, has boxing in his blood from both his Choctaw and Comanche grandfathers. He is the grandson of Robert Frazier of Broken Bow and is a descendent of Willie Caldwell Frazier, an original Choctaw enrollee.

On September 12, George won the first Native American Boxing Council belt in his weight class held at the Comanche Nation Casino in Lawton.

### Happy birthday to my family

Wishing a happy birthday to my father, Austin Jefferson; brother, A.J. Jefferson; nephew, Jaxon Tulli Jefferson; cousins, Mason Bohanan, Michael Bohanan, Russell Jefferson, Roy Jefferson, Albert Shomo, Robbie Bohanan; uncle, Jimmy Tom and mother, Linda Jefferson, from your Chahta girl, Vanessa Jefferson.

### Happy ninth birthday

Britney Lee Powell of Norman celebrated her ninth birthday on November 8. Britney is a third-grader and enjoys school. She is a Brownie Girl Scout who loves to sing, swim, read, dance, giggle and laugh. Happy birthday from your family, Mom, Dad, Brianna, G.G., Fishstick, Grandma Margie, Papa, Grandma Linda, and last but not least, Tawnni.



### Happy birthday to family members

I want to wish happy birthday to my family. My grandma Jemie Gibson and my Aunt Susie Roberts’ birthdays were in August. Aunt Lora Tom’s birthday was on September 29, and my brother, Chris Thomas, had a birthday on September 29. Happy birthday to all my family and may God bless you – from Freddy and family.

### Happy 4th birthday

Happy birthday to Jaden Lewis. She turned 4 years old on October 6. Her birthday was celebrated at her grandparents home on October 5 with friends and family. Jaden is the great-great-granddaughter of the late Alma J. Phillips.



### Look who’s 3

Happy birthday to Trenton Denney who turned 3 on October 10, from mom, Aunt Jennifer, Uncle Jess, granny and papa.



### Happy first birthday

Happy first birthday on September 15 to Luke Bohanan from Sobol. His mother is Tiffanie Bohanan.



### Happy second birthday

Happy second birthday on October 22 to Charley Hilton. She is the daughter of Charles Jr. and Patrician Hilton of Clayton.



### Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Kelli Hilton on November 13. Her parents are Charles and Patricia Hilton of Clayton and Michelle and Justin Tapley from Idabel; brother, Racen Hitlon, and sisters, Charley Hilton and Dayton Tapley, would all like to wish her a happy birthday





# CNO student represents United States at London Internet Safety Congress

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) student Preston Wells of Hugo was among 20 delegates selected to represent the United States at an international youth conference on Internet safety this summer in London, according to Chief Gregory E. Pyle. This July, 140 delegates ages 14 to 17 from 19 countries gathered at the International Youth Advisory Congress on Online Safety and Security for the weeklong forum dealing with protecting children on the web.

United States delegates to the Congress were sponsored by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), an investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). ICE and NCMEC are longtime partners in protecting children on the Internet. The congress was hosted by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, a British child protection agency, in conjunction with the Virtual Global Task Force, an international alliance of law



Preston Wells

enforcement agencies working to keep kids safe online. Wells learned of the opportunity through the Choctaw Nation's Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP). While SAP's primary function is to focus on college preparation and placement for Choctaw students, many opportunities beyond scholarships come to the program's attention according to Program Director Jo McDaniel. "Part of our job is to match opportunities with candidates – whatever those opportunities may be, and this type of

exposure is priceless," says McDaniel. "SAP makes opportunities such as this available to Choctaw students to help them build their resumes and experience learning outside of the classroom. We saw this chance to send one of our students to an important youth congress in London. We wanted to find a candidate, and Preston was a good match," McDaniel said. Wells was selected to be a U.S. delegate to the Internet safety congress in March based on an essay and his written responses to a series of questions as well as two letters of recommendation. Prior to their weeklong meeting in London, Wells and other U.S. delegates met in Washington, D.C., to prepare for the London meetings. At the IYAC Wells helped develop and make a presentation on what governments could do to combat abuse and make the Internet safer for children. Wells and his group presented their findings to over 300 people including representatives from Microsoft, VISA

and Virtual Global Task Force Members. Preston's group developed three primary recommendations for government action: • It should be mandatory for browsers and websites to carry the "Report Abuse" button recommended by the Virtual Global Task Force. It's small, unobtrusive and powerful. • Governments need to use their collective powers to put pressure on the media and on industry to promote online safety issues. • Governments should implement trans-border agreements between nations to promote online safety. "The report abuse button of the Virtual Global Task Force is essential," says Wells. "In the U.K. it's now on about 10,000 web sites." The outcome of the IYAC Congress has been compiled into a charter that will be presented to the United Nations in 2009. Wells is an honors student at Hugo High School where he will be a sophomore in the coming school year. He is interested in journalism and cinematography.



Kristi Adams presents the YAB scholarship to first place winner Faith Woody.



Severt Dahl



Kelbie Kennedy

## YAB scholarship winners

Each year the Choctaw Nation Advisory Board members that are graduating from high school have the opportunity to apply for an internal scholarship. The winners for 2008 were first place, Faith Woody for \$1,000, above, being presented by Kristi Adams; second place, Severt Dahl for \$750; and Kelbie Kennedy, third place for \$500. Congratulations YAB'sters and good luck!



## Graduation ceremony held for GED students

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Adult Education Program proudly presented diplomas to graduates of 2008 during their 11th annual GED graduation ceremony September 19 at the Mitchell Auditorium at Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton. Pre-graduation music and special music during the ceremony was presented by The Revelators. Assistant Chief Gary Batton welcomed the students and families, congratulating them on receiving their GED. Tribal Council Speaker Delton Cox introduced the attending Choctaw Nation Council Members and spoke briefly with pride about the college hosting the graduation ceremony.

Keynote speaker Jay Paul Gumm, state senator for District 6, spoke of being proud of obtaining goals and receiving an education. The top 10 score ranking are James Campbell, Rheannon Gregor, Samatha Maeder, Kayla Makerney, Sophia Martinez, Robert Shomoh, Audrey Short, Anna Yanez, Stanley York, Jr. with the top graduate being Nicholas McMurrian. The 2008 Choctaw Nation graduates are Leslie Adkins, Jose Ahmed, Sofia Alderete, Michelle Angel, Tammy Ayers, Nicholas Bacon, Mandy Bayles, Dyllan Billy, Carmen Bowen, Richard Bray, Melinda Brown, James Campbell, Perry Cannon, Branton Clark,

Jason Cobb, Jeremiah Colbert, Glenda Cole, Debbie Collier, Amanda Cox, Katie Crabtree, Robert Davis, Ambher Dawdy, Amber Dehart, Toby Evans, Britton Farmer, Ruben Francis, Chad Franklin, Kyle Frazier, Tommy Frazier, Mylea Gasper, Nitah Gibson, Chelsea Gillispie, Mary Gilstrap, Jesse Gossett, Karla Gowin, Rheannon Gregor, Jeneane Grimes, Malissa Harper, Vanessa Harrelson, Colinda Harrington, Joshua Harrod, Cassandra James, Dave James, Ashley John, Jeremy Johnson, Cody Knight, Joshua Land, Karen Landreth, Nathaniel Larney, Paula Lloyd, Kristel Lynn, Samatha Maeder, Kayla Makerney, Karen Mannon, Justine Martin, Sophia Mar-

tinez, Gary Maxwell, Robert McGee, Nicholas McMurrian, Shauna Montgomery, Toby Neal, Cassinda Newton, Angela Nystrom, Ataloe Oncidi, Nicholas Patton, Brandelyn Perry, Levi PettyJohn, Crystal Pugh, Jenny Rose, Cameon Scarborough, Jamie Scarcelli, Brittini Schonfield, Kacey Scott, Crystal Seigrist, Robert Shomoh, Audrey Short, Bobby Smith, Joshua Stockwell, Bryan Stubbs, Joshua Thompson, Zachary Tilden, Shirley Trejo, Jessica Underwood, Kirby White, Keith Williams, Rebecca Williams, Virginia Williams, Chadrick Wilson, Casey Wolfe, Glenda Wolfe, Steven Womack III, Anna Yanez, Stanley York, Jr., and Summer Young.



Front row are Morgan McGee, Brittany Snapp, and Haley Grant. Back row, Dr. OJ Harvey, Twauna Williams (Choctaw Peer Advisor), Ray Stephens, Shauna Williams (Choctaw Peer Advisor), and Dr. Terry Minton (The Harvey Foundation).

## Southeastern, Choctaw Nation receive \$120,000 gift scholarship pledge

Southeastern Oklahoma State University President Michael Turner and Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Chief Greg Pyle announced that the OJ and Mary Christine Harvey Educational Foundation has pledged to assist 10 Choctaw students attending Southeastern. The scholarships are valued at \$5,000 a year per student for 2-3 years. The students must be Choctaw, maintain a grade point average of 2.7 or higher, and be a full-time student. According to the Harvey Foundation, the primary reasons why the scholarships have been pledged are the solid working relationship between the Choctaw Nation and Southeastern, the high numbers of Native American students attending the university, and the fact that SOSU is a national leader in graduating Native American students. In the latest data provided by "Diverse Issues in Higher Education," Southeastern ranks #1 nationally in percentage of Native American graduates among the top 20 degree-granting institutions. Four scholarships have already been awarded for the 2008-09 academic year. The recipients are Morgan McGhee of Idabel, Ray Stevens of Caddo, Haley Grant of Durant, and Brittany Snapp of Valliant.

Chris Wesberry, coordinator of the Southeastern Native American Center for Student Success, said, "These scholarships are truly making a difference. Many of the recipients would not be able to attend college if not for the generosity of the Harvey Foundation. The legacy of OJ and Mary Christine Harvey's commitment to education will live on for many years." Jo McDaniel, Director of Scholarship Advisement Program for the Choctaw Nation, states, "We are thrilled for the opportunity for our Choctaw students. The partnership between the Harvey Foundation and Southeastern will benefit Choctaw students for years to come." All scholarship applicants must contact Jo McDaniel at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2547, or www.choctawnation-sap.com.



Bennie Simpson, Travis Pablo, Jeremiah Watkins and David Salkey enjoy a back to school meal.



Courtney Herrington and Liliana Bernal work on a science project in their fifth grade class. Both students are beneficiaries of the brand new facilities at Jones Academy provided by the Choctaw Nation.

## Jones Academy starts new year



Jones Academy students have participated in a variety of activities at the start of the year. They have enjoyed football games, softball, horseback riding, movies, paintball, ceramics, pottery classes and several outings away from the campus. One of those activities was the SAFE Choctaw Project Meeting in Tahina. Forty-two boys and girls attended the leadership conference addressing issues related to teenage pregnancies, drug awareness, domestic abuse and violence.



AROUND THE NATION

Choctaw Nation tribal members gather in Seattle



Marlene Perkins receives a thank-you gift from Chief Pyle for helping with the door prizes.



Dale and Kelli Horton brought their 5-month-old granddaughter, Dallas, to the meeting.



“Strolling” around the meeting are 14-month-old twins, Patrick and Malia Gericke.



Choctaw veteran Bob Bryant of Tacoma enjoys talking with Chief Pyle.



Judy and Jason Sherman visit with Chief Pyle during the Seattle meeting.



Professional balloon twister Adam Lee shows his portfolio of caricatures to Assistant Chief Batton.



Brothers Vince and Josh Dobson are pictured with Chief Pyle.



One-year-old Darian Verner is pictured with Nancy Buck.

Community gathering held for tribal members in Oregon



Brad Guthrie discusses Choctaw Language information with teacher Lillie Roberts. Lillie is the instructor of Choctaw School of Language classes on the Internet.



Donna Curtis and 9-month-old grandson Conner Johnson are enjoying the meeting in Tigard, Oregon.



Amanda, David Sr. and David Carter Jr. are pictured with Chief Pyle.



Sylvia Cooper and Cultural Events Executive Director Sue Folsom look at a display of Choctaw culture items.



Assistant Chief visits with Johnny Watson. Mr. Watson moved from Smithville to Oregon in 1959.



Juanita McDaniel tells Chief Pyle about her son in Hawaii who teaches the Choctaw language.



Truman Watson and Assistant Chief Batton.



Karen Covey and Vicki McEnany pose for a picture with the Chief. Vicki drove 500 miles from Idaho to attend the meeting.



Higher Education Director Larry Wade answers questions from Joshua May.



Patty and Terry Mills visit with Housing Executive Director Russell Sossoman.





**Juanita Lajeunesse**, Idabel, has no children but is a grandparent raising a grandnephew. She worked as a matron at Intermountain Boarding school, Brigham City, Utah, for years and upon marrying moved to Bemidji, Minnesota, where she worked as a nurses aide for a number of years. She took early retirement to come home to take care of her mother. She volunteers at the community center; she also serves as a Sunday School teacher for preschool children. As a cancer survivor she participates with the “Relay for Life” and participates in the Trail of Tears Walk. She enjoys reading, gospel singings and planting flowers. She was recently selected to serve as a Choctaw Delegate to the National Indian Council on Aging conference held in Tacoma, Washington. Presenting the award are Matilda Davis and Chief Pyle.



Mary Williams accepted the award for her late husband, **Harvey Williams** of District 2, Broken Bow. Mr. Williams attended Finley and Antlers Public schools, Chilocco Indian School, and later in life attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He served in the U.S. Army from 1956-1959. He was trained and served as food specialist with the Quarter Master Unit in Germany. As an ordained minister he served the United Indian Methodist churches through appointments to circuits serving Choctaw, Chickasaw and Creek churches. He was faithful to his call. In May of 2008 he was diagnosed with cancer and in June 2008 he went to be with his Lord and Savior. Presenting the award are Chief Greg Pyle and Councilman Mike Amos.

**Charles Watson**, who was chosen District 2, Bethel, Outstanding Elder, was unable to attend the banquet. He attended Goodland Boys School until he was at the age where he was needed to assist with family finances yet he was determined and did obtain his GED certification. He worked early in life hauling pole, as chipping saw operator with Weyerhaeuser Company, and earned water safety certification while employed with Mountain Fork Water District. He has been faithful to Mt. Zion Church serving as Sunday School teacher, grounds and building keeper and enjoys singing. His volunteer work includes church activities and in the community as driving Battiest school bus for field trips, Head Start activities on behalf of his grandchildren, and at the Senior Citizen Center with driving and fundraising.



**Priscilla Coleman**, District 2, Broken Bow, attended schools from Antlers to metro Oklahoma City to rural Boswell and received her Bachelor of Science and master’s degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Elementary Education and School Guidance and Counseling. She received Continuing Education Units through University of Oklahoma. She taught schools in Broken Bow and Eagletown and worked with Counseling Service through Kiamichi Youth Services as counselor, coordinator, interim director and then served as executive director. She has serve as consultant for McCurtain County, Osage, BIA schools, Kiamichi Area Vo-tech, and Department of Health services. She raised five children and enjoys her beautiful grandchildren. She has received numerous honors and achievement awards as nomination for “Teacher of the Year.” Presenting the award are Councilman Mike Amos and Chief Greg Pyle.



**Wanda Lou Bohanon**, District 2, Bethel, was educated at Wheelock, Goodland, and graduated from Haskell Institute. After graduation, she was off to Dallas and began employment with Taylor Publishing Company. She became a part of the government’s relocation program to Chicago, Illinois, where she located employment with Zenith Corporation and worked with other companies before landing a job with Young Women’s Christian Association as a teacher’s aide. While working fulltime she earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood Education. She earned her position as teacher and then as director of their Mutlti-Cultural Center. Her honors include The Lincoln Academy Award of Illinois by the Governor of Illinois. The City of Chicago presented her with a “Women Making the Differences” award. She retired and returned to Oklahoma and began her second career at Bacone College as Director of Dormitory Supervisor. She resides in Bethel and volunteers with StarFish Oklahoma Youth Ministry, serves as Secretary/Treasurer for the Bethel Senior Citizen and as a Christian is part of the Choctaw Bible Classes offered in her area. Councilman Mike Amos and Chief Greg Pyle presented her award.

# Outstanding Elders of 2008



**Norman Eugene Ludlow**, Smithville, served in the Army from 1951-1954 as an engineer. In January of 1961 as part of the Government Relocation Program he was moved to California and worked with Phelps Dodge Copper Products, serving as manager for over 20 years. Upon closing he worked with wholesale plumbing for AMFAC and Iron Oaks and also did security work with GE Corporation. In September 1997, he retired and moved back home to Oklahoma. During his younger days he was an avid hunter and fisherman. Eugene is pictured with Councilman Kenny Bryant and Chief Greg Pyle.



**Clara M. Taylor**, resident of Smithville and Watson area, is the mother of one son and has five grandchildren. She is a member of Buffalo Presbyterian Church, treasurer for the local women’s auxiliary, for local singing organization and Choctaw Agency Women’s Council, and serves as Sunday School secretary. In May 2008 she retired from the Smithville Public School System with 36 years of service as teacher assistant. She is involved in Smithville Choctaw Senior Citizens and enjoys taking senior trips. Clara received her award from Councilman Kenny Bryant and Chief Greg Pyle.



**James M. Melton** of Talihina is 79 years old with 11 siblings. He and the late Loretta Amos were married for 55 years, raised eight children, 20 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren. He began his career with IHS Indian Hospital and retired with 23 years of service with the Environmental Health Department. He is a member of Good Spring United Methodist Church and currently attends St. Paul United Methodist Church where he enjoys Choctaw singings. He enjoys the outdoors, working in the yard or working in his garden. His award was presented by Councilman Kenny Bryant and Chief Greg Pyle.



**Betty Hampton**, a resident of Talihina, received her education from Virginia Beach, Virginia, and recently retired as a CNA. She raised five children and is a member of Green Hill Baptist Church. She is involved in a women’s mission group and nursing home visitation that includes praying, singing, and writing letters for the residents. She attends Choctaw Language Class and participates in Choctaw singing for events. She now attends Kiamichi Technology Center and is enrolled in the Business and Marketing Class. Betty is diabetic so she makes use of the Choctaw Nation gym three times per week. She was presented her award by Councilman Kenny Bryant and Chief Greg Pyle.



**Jack Hornbuckle**, Poteau, graduated from Oklahoma State University and worked in the public school system as teacher and high school wrestling coach, middle school football and track coach. He is known for his 356 varsity wins and one losing season over a period of 36 years. He has been honored as All State Wrestling Coach; Oklahoma State Regional Coach of the Year for eight times; served as Wrestling Conference President, State Regional Representative for wrestling Coach Association, and Chairman of Teacher’s Professional Development for Poteau School District. Upon retirement he has competed in the senior age wrestling division, winning 12 National Championships and the Wrestling World Champion (age 55 year group) in Czech Republic in 2004. Chief Greg Pyle and Councilman Delton Cox presented his award.



**Shirley Mantaghi**, Poteau, was raised in Salonia community by her grandparents and learned to speak the Choctaw language. She and her husband of 43 years raised four children, adopted one son and have four grandchildren. She recently returned to Oklahoma after 38 years in California and is currently employed by Choctaw Nation with the Children and Family Services as a caseworker. Shirley attained one goal in her life by “returning home to Oklahoma and working for her people.” She served in the Army for seven years and as a veteran she is active with the Choctaw Nation Color Guard. A unique statement of Shirley’s is, “How many 60-year-old grandmas do you know who still wears her combat boots and fires her M-16?” She was presented her award by Councilman Delton Cox and Chief Greg Pyle.



**William Leon Mize** and wife Marilyn reside in Spiro and are parents of two children and grandparents to five grandchildren. Leon is an honor graduate of Panama High School. He graduated Carl Albert Jr. College with an Associate Degree in Business Administration. He is an Army veteran. He worked as a carpenter and owned and operated Mize Auto Sales. Leon served on the Spiro Chamber of Commerce and was honored as an outstanding Chamber member. He served as a trustee on the Board of Spiro Mounds Association; board member of Spiro Choctaw Culture Club and serving as Quartermaster for the Skullyville Post of the Choctaw Veterans Association. He and Marilyn were inducted into the Spiro Historical Society Hall of Fame. Chief Greg Pyle and Councilpersons Charlotte Jackson and Delton Cox presented his award.



**Marilyn Cox Mize** is of the Baptist faith and is a graduate of Spiro High School. She has been self-employed for 32 years as a beauty consultant and worked with Shelter Insurance for 19 years. She is active in the advisory board for Fort Smith Life Underwriters Association, earned a fellowship degree through the Underwriters Council, member and an officer of Chamber of Commerce, Lake Wister Association, Vo-Tech School and Historical Association. She was honored by Carl Albert State College for “Institute of Excellence” and inducted into the Spiro Historical Society Hall of Fame. Councilpersons Charlotte Jackson and Delton Cox and Chief Greg Pyle presented her award.



**Michael Scantlen** of Stigler, a graduate of Stigler High School, attended Connors State College and Northeastern State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Education with a minor in Physical Education. Later he earned his master’s degree in education. He taught at all levels, served as an interim principal, as an athletic director and as a coach prior to retiring in 1994. He is a veteran having served in the Army during Vietnam and now serves as an Honor Guard for the Stigler VFW. He and his wife, JoAnn, plant a large garden and supply the Choctaw Center Seniors with fresh vegetables. As a rancher he does custom hay bailing. He was presented his award from Chief Greg Pyle and Councilperson Charlotte Jackson.

Stigler’s **Imogene Terrell** attended Wheelock Academy Indian School, She married and they raised six children. Mrs. Terrell was employed as nurse’s aid for 18 years. She attends and enjoys the luncheon and fellowships with the Stigler Senior Citizen Program. Imogene was unable to attend.

**Alfred Harley**, Wilburton, attended Kulli Tuklo Elementary and Haworth High School in McCurtain County. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1949 and served during the Korean War from 1950-1952. Alfred returned to the United States and attended Okmulgee tech, studying mechanics. When he graduated he and his wife, Rosalee, moved to Wilburton. He built his home and auto repair shop for his part-time career and began his employment at Wilburton School District, retiring after 22 years. Mr. Harley is a member of the Oklahoma Indian Methodist Church. He faithfully attends the Grace OIMC and actively engages in leadership for the church. He serves as song leader, Sunday School teacher and was a member of the “The Gospel Four.” He is member of the Choctaw Nation Veterans Association. Mr. Harley was unable to attend.





**Frena Hokit Snyder** resides in a home believed to be the oldest inhabited house in Choctaw Nation in the Yanush community. Her education began in Yanush, Tuskahoma and Buffalo Valley Public School systems. She began her employment with Tinker Air Force Base and married a marine returning from World War II. They raised four daughters and now she is blessed with seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. They would move from the area but always returned home to Yanush. She is involed with church activities, Home Economics Club, 4-H, and also as a home health provider. She enjoys church, senior citizen programs, doing her beadwork and having her family close. Mrs. Snyder is pictured with District 6 Councilman Joe Coley and Chief Greg Pyle.



**Andrew Choate**, Antlers, attended Jones Academy for the first eight years of his education, then four years in Chilocco Indian School. After three years with the Marine Corps he attained the rank of sergeant. Upon returning from service he attended Southeastern State College. He married Norma Williams 53 years ago, raised four children and is blessed with two grandchildren. He went to Dallas on the relocation program and worked for Bethlehem Steel for 26 years. He transferred to Houston for 10 years and retired as Customer Service Manager. After retirement he served as consultant for Bethlehem Steel. He is active in Old Cedar Methodist Church and serves as Trustee and Treasurer. He served on the Board of Directors for Dallas Indian Center and now volunteers for Finley Volunteer Fire Dept since returning home in 1993. He was presented his award by Councilman Jack Austin and Chief Greg Pyle.



**Rebecca Noah**, Antlers, attended Finley Public School, Goodland Indian School and after a short break she graduated from Antlers High School. She began her employment at the Naval Ammunition Depot in McAlester, attended night classes at Eastern Jr. College and earned her BS degree in Science. She later earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and her master's degree at Southeastern State College. She worked at Jones Academy as a guidance counselor before moving to Arizona for teaching opportunities. She took on the challenge to take her class to Disneyland. She is a lifelong member of the Methodist Church and teaches Adult Sunday School. She is the Sunday School Superintendent at Old Cedar Methodist Church. Mrs. Noah received her award from Councilman Jack Austin and Chief Greg Pyle.



**Betty Battiest** was raised in Hugo. She attended and graduated from Chilocco Indian School. Betty married her high school sweetheart, raised four children and recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. She worked for 20 years with local chain establishments such as Safeway and Wal-Mart. She volunteered at the Wright City Senior Center preparing meals, and now is active as the Volunteer Wellness Coordinator at the Wright City Center. She was selected to represent Choctaw Nation as a Delegate to National Indian Council on Aging Conference held in Tacoma, Washington. She attended Glory Baptist Church where she's active as song leader and treasurer. She enjoys gardening and housekeeping. Mrs. Battiest received her award from Councilman Jack Austin and Chief Greg Pyle.

**Daniel Herndon** of Wright City served in the military from 1945 to 1947. He was married to the late Jewel Gaskey for 53 years. They had two children. Daniel farmed, worked with construction and owned and operated a store business. Dan is active with American Legion and very active with the Annual July 4th Rodeo. He plants a large garden and shares his vegetables with center participants. He was unable to attend.



**Henry Rodriguez** of Hugo and wife Mary Jo have raised six children, 16 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. He retired from Weyerhaeuser after 30 years of service. His daily routine of exercise is riding his bicycle, checking out local establishments such as the Casino, Wal-Mart, or the local coffee shop. Mr. Rodriguez was presented his award by Councilman Perry Thompson and Chief Greg Pyle.



**Rosalie Mitchell** of Hugo is the mother of two sons and one daughter and grandmother to eight. She attends Victory Baptist Church and sings in the choir. She was a cook for the Hugo School System for 13 years working with all schools at one point or another until her retirement. She then worked as a trainee through the National Indian Council on Aging Senior Employment Service for a number of years and now is working as the head cook at the Hugo Choctaw Senior Center through Choctaw Nation Senior Center Contract Service. She was selected for two terms as a delegate representing District 8 to the NICOA Conference held in Tacoma, Washington. She loved the salmon being served on the West Coast and her hobbies include quilting, raising funds for senior trips and she states, "I love to travel so I catch the Choctaw bus no matter which way it is going." Rosalie accepted her award from Councilman Perry Thompson and Chief Greg Pyle.



**Willie Walley**, Durant, joined the 45th Infantry Division, Oklahoma National Guard, and upon graduating from high school he enlisted in the Army Air Corps, later known as U.S. Air Force, and was active for 20 years. Among the honors he received are the Air Force Good Conduct, Army Good Conduct, Army of Occupation Medal, National Defense Service, and Air Force Longevity Service Award. He began his second career in the mobile home business. In addition to his career he managed a small cattle ranch. He and his late wife resided on the governmental allotted property as their primary resident. He is a Deacon and served as Sunday School Teacher of the New Bennington Presbyterian Church and also served as coach of the church's basketball team. Other community activities include Johnson-O'Malley school board, wellness coordinator, Bryan County RSVP, and attends the Choctaw Nutrition Center in Durant. Councilman Ted Dosh and Chief Greg Pyle presented Mr. Walley with his award.



**Roosevelt Butler** was raised by his grandparents in Atoka and attended Atoka Schools. He is a veteran with an honorable discharge. He was married for 52 years and raised two daughters through employment with Ford Garage, Monroe Allen Lumber Company and retired in the early '90s. Roosevelt has a passion for making people laugh. His hobbies include fishing, watching television and enjoying his Wednesday visit to the Choctaw Senior Center. District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard and Chief Greg Pyle presented Mr. Butler with his award.



**Dellora Lauradell Miles** attended Wilson school and is a member of the Lehigh Baptist Church. She has served as the secretary and treasurer for the District 12 Senior Citizens for almost 10 years. She volunteers her time at the community center assisting with fundraising and events. She is a member of the Oklahoma Home and Community Education Program and the Coal County RSVP. She helps the Clarita Senior Center with serving meals for all seniors of Coal County. She has a garden every year and brings in her produce for distribution to elders at the center. She is active in the District 12 Senior Fitness Program. Councilman James Frazier and Chief Greg Pyle presented her award.



**Rebecca Cole** was born in her parents' home in Lane, the third of seven children. She turned 81 years old this year. She has three children, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In 1971, Rebecca worked at the Atoka hospital and in 1972, she was a teacher's aid for Lane School. From 1976 to 1985, she worked at Hubberts Nursing Home. She has always enjoyed cooking, quilting, and gardening. Rebecca enjoys cooking Sunday dinners for her family as well as putting everyone's needs before her own. She doesn't hesitate to help someone out whatever it may be. She is of the Presbyterian faith and was also the piano player for her church. She enjoys singing and listening to Choctaw hymns. She enjoys attending the senior citizen's luncheon on Wednesday. Mrs. Cole has seen and went through many hard times and struggles throughout her 81 years but if you were to ask her how in the world she did it, she will tell you it was her faith in God that has always seen her through. She received her award from Councilman Anthony Dillard and Chief Greg Pyle.



**James Edwin Green** attended school in Ada, enlisted in the Army in 1960 and was stationed in Germany for two years. After his military service he worked with Southwest Forest Industries for two years in Snowflake, Arizona. He and his spouse raised two sons and have two grandchildren. His career began at the Army Ammunition Depot as inspector and lasted for 30 years. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping and attending the Choctaw Center. He volunteers for decorating at holidays and assists with Appreciation Dinners sponsored by District 11. He was presented his award by Councilman Bob Pate and Chief Greg Pyle.



**Betty Lou Thomas** attended Antlers High School, raised one son and has two grandchildren. She has been employed with businesses in California, Dallas, Tulsa, Antlers, and now in the McAlester Community for all events hosted by District 11. She is involved with the appreciation dinners, veterans luncheons and birthdays. Councilman Bob Pate and Chief Greg Pyle presented her award.



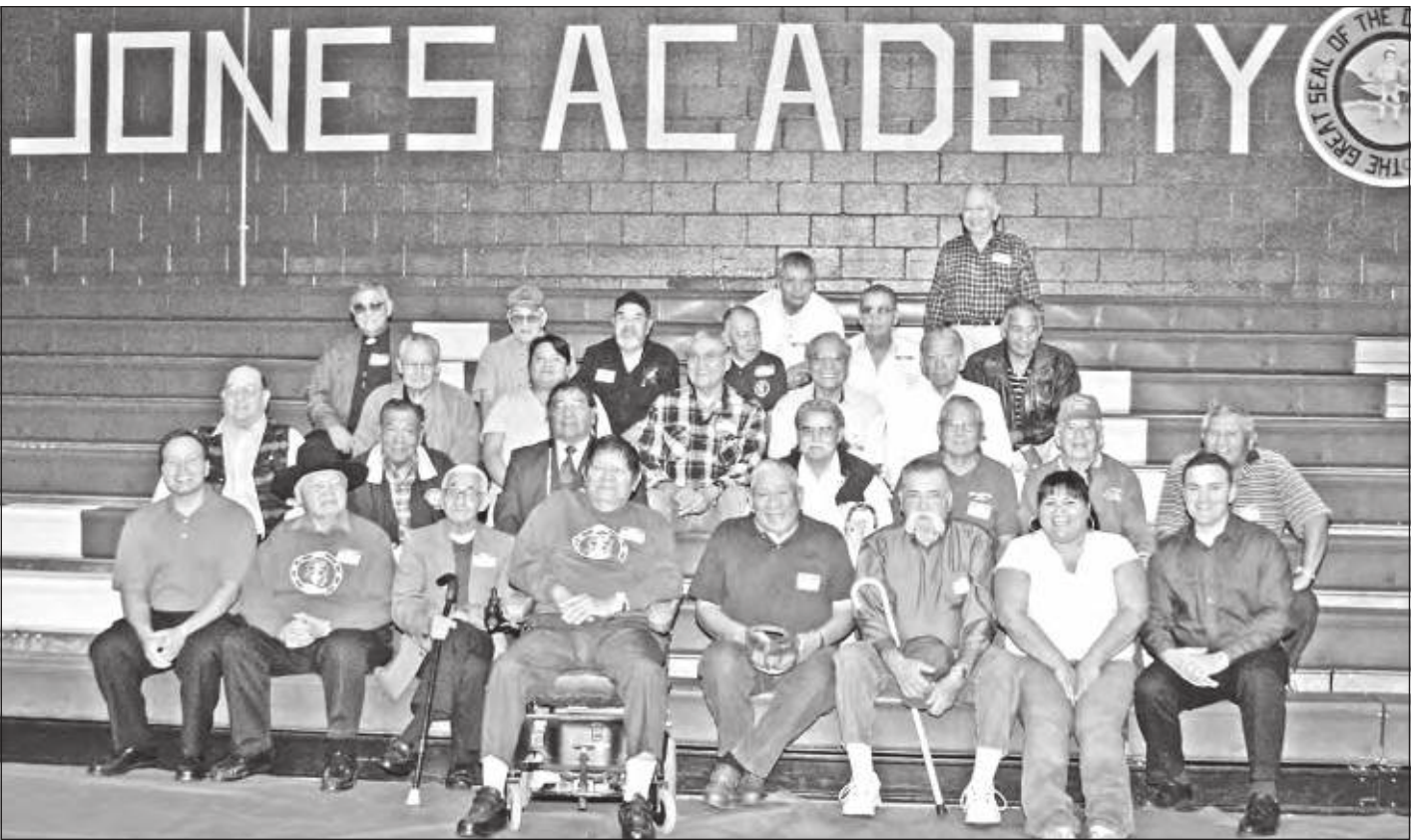
**Lloyd Morris, Crowder**, attended and graduated Chilocco Indian School. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the 18th Field Artillery at Fort Sill. He made expert on Howitzers. He also won the Battalion boxing championship at 147 pounds. He received an honorable discharge after three years and then returned to the same unit in 1942. In 1944 he was stationed in Wales, England, and France. Later he was involved in the Battle of the Bulge and was discharged again in 1945. He received five battle stars, and began employment with Southern Pacific Railroad as a boilermaker and welder. He retired from the U.S. Post Office as a carrier with 20 years of service. Councilman James Frazier and Chief Greg Pyle presented his award.



**Lucille Jameson** attended Rock School, Eufaula Boarding School and Haskell where she played the piccolo and flute in the marching band. She and husband Carl raised five children and were blessed with 15 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren; but she had an open door for children and babies who were in need of a home. She taught school at Court School in 1945 and she enjoys attending Native American events. She was recognized for modeling her Choctaw dress at a style show of Native American Dress at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, and carried the Choctaw Flag at the dedication of the Tribal Flag Plaza at the State Capitol Building. She is an active member of the Crowder Choctaw Community Center. She received her award from Councilman James Frazier and Chief Greg Pyle.



# Former students attend Jones Academy Reunion



The annual Jones Academy Reunion was held October 18 on the school’s campus near Hartshorne. Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Jones Administrator Brad Spears and several staff members were on hand to greet former students as they arrived at the gym. Jones Academy was an all-male school until the mid-’50s.

Among the alumni attending the reunion were Tom Anderson of McAlester, Cecil Berry of McAlester, Bertram Bobb of Antlers, James Bolen of Ada, Jimmy Bruner of Antlers, Richmond Bruner of Lawton, Howard Bryant of Talihina, Edmond Cummins of Colbert, Melissa Durant of Fort Towson, Olan Durant of Fort Towson, Norman Fry of Kiowa, Robert Hicks of Idabel, Billy Hill of Wichita, Kansas, James Hudson of Hugo, Earl Ishcomer of Monticello, Illinois, Randy Jacob of Broken Bow, Cleno Jefferson of Riverside, California, Buster Jefferson of Oklahoma City, Monique Jefferson of Tulsa, Laverne Jones of Sapulpa, Don LeFlore of Sherman, Texas, Ted LeFlore of Atoka, Tully Choate of Broken Arrow, Wayne Scott of Wilburton, Wilburn Shields of McAlester, and Osborne York of Ardmore.

Several veterans were on hand including two from World War II – Buster Jefferson and Bertram Bobb.

Everyone enjoyed the reunion, visiting, reminiscing about the “old days,” taking pictures and sharing meals. The evening ended with a gospel singing.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION							
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
D E C E M B E R  2 0 0 8		1	2	3 Durant 10 am-12 pm	4	5 Idabel 10 am-12 pm Broken Bow 1-3 p.m.	6
	7	8 Wilburton 10:30 am- 1:30 pm	9 Antlers by appt only	10 McAlester 10 am-2 pm Stigler by appt only	11	12 Wright City by appt only Bethel by appt only	13
	14	15	16	17	18 Crowder by appt only	19 Poteau 11:30 am- 1 pm	20
	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	27
	28	29	30 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	31 New Year's Eve	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.		

## Project Falvmmichi earns ‘High Honors’

Ten tribal governments were honored in October by Harvard’s Honoring Contributions in the Governance of American Indian Nations (Honoring Nations) awards program. Choctaw Nation’s Project Falvmmichi was among five programs earning “High Honors,” receiving a \$20,000 award each in recognition of their good governance achievements.

Hundreds of guests attended the event held in conjunction with the 65th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians in Phoenix, Arizona.

“Our destiny is in our hands,” said Chief Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Onandaga Indian Nation and chairman of the Honoring Nations Board of Governors. “Being capable of directing our own future and defending the futures of our children and the futures of our nations is profoundly important. Honoring Nations understands this – and is a very, very positive program in Indian Country.”

The Honoring Nations program identifies, celebrates and shares exemplary tribal governance programs among the more than 560 Indian nations in the United States.

The “High Honors” recipients were selected from a pool of 1001 applications repre-

senting more than 60 tribes. At each stage of the selection process applications are judged on the criteria of effectiveness, significance to sovereignty, cultural relevance, transferability, and sustainability. In addition to the awards, the Harvard Project prepares reports, case studies, and instructional materials based on the honorees’ successes.

“Tribes are solving complex governmental issues in a meaningful way. Their work is inspiring, and each hold examples for other governments to learn from,” noted Amy Besaw Medford, director of the program.

This is Honoring Nations’ seventh year of awards. Since the program’s inception in 1998, more than one-quarter of the tribes in the U.S. have applied for an award and 102 initiatives have been honored.

Project Falvmmichi is a domestic violence prevention program whose goal is to raise awareness in second grade students that “It’s not cool to hit.” The lessons are led by a group of teen mentors who visit the second grade classrooms once a month. They bring a positive message through puppet skits, group discussions and other activities.

The program is currently in 32 schools and 63 classrooms in the Choctaw Nation.

## Original enrollee Georgia Mae Self celebrates 104th



On October 21, District 7 Councilman Jack Austin, Virginia Hammons, the Rev. Bertram Bobb, and Patricia Blagg attended Georgia Mae Self’s 104th birthday party at the Antlers Nursing Home.

Jack presented Georgia with a Mikasa Vase etched with the Choctaw seal and a plaque.

In the vase were 10 long-stem roses, each representing 10 years, with four light purple cut flowers, representing each year over 100.

Happy birthday, Georgia!



## Princess participates in parade

Senior Miss Choctaw Nation Dayla Amos represented the Choctaw Nation in the Chockasaw Nation Parade held October 4 in Tishomingo.

## Labor Day Art Show Winners

PAINTINGS	BASKETRY
<b>1st:</b> “New Hat,” Karen Clarkson.	<b>1st:</b> “Gift of the Great Spirit,” Susan Locke Charlesworth.
<b>2nd:</b> “Shawl Dancer,” Jane Semple Umsted.	<b>2nd:</b> “Shumaka’s Cat,” Lizbeth Mmitchell.
<b>3rd:</b> “Future Leader,” Carole Ayers.	<b>3rd:</b> “Hominy Sifter,” Susan Locke Charlesworth.
<b>Honorable Mention:</b> “Choctaw Chat,” Yvonne Huser.	<b>Heritage Award:</b> “Gift of the Great Spirit,” Susan Locke Charlesworth.
<b>Heritage Award:</b> “Early Morning Cooking Class,” Gwen Coleman Lester.	
GRAPHICS	CULTURAL
<b>1st:</b> “CHAHTA ... Celebrating My Ancestors,” Paul King.	<b>1st:</b> “Nature’s Colors,” LaJuanna Stewart.
<b>2nd:</b> “Choctaw Elder,” Jane Semple Umsted.	<b>2nd:</b> “From the Forest,” LaJuanna Stewart.
<b>3rd:</b> “Serving Banaha,” Gwen Coleman Lester.	<b>3rd:</b> “Everyday Moccasins,” Michael Rose.
	<b>Heritage Award:</b> Ceremonial Moccasins,” Michael Rose.
SCULPTURE	JEWELRY
<b>1st:</b> “The Cross,” Lyman Choate.	<b>1st:</b> “Four Tall Chiefs,” Keith Pearson
<b>2nd:</b> “Holy One,” John H. Johnson White.	<b>2nd:</b> “Stickball Bracelet,” Jerry Lowman.
<b>3rd:</b> “The Chaplain,” Lyman Choate.	<b>3rd:</b> “Bonepicker Broach,” Bob Proctor.
<b>Heritage Award:</b> “The Contestant,” Lyman Choate.	
POTTERY	BEST OF SHOW
<b>Heritage Award:</b> “One Pit Fired Coiled Snake,” Edmon L. Perkins.	“Purple Heart,” LaJuanna Stewart.
	PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD
	“Shawl Dancer,” Jane Semple Umsted.



## Group attends Stigler Chamber Luncheon

District 5 Tribal Councilwoman Charlotte Jackson is pictured with Triston Daniel Gonzales, District 5 Junior Miss Kristi McGuire and Little Miss Juanita Gonzales, and Lorenzo Gonzale during a Chamber Luncheon at Stigler’s Civic Center. Chief Greg Pyle was the keynote speaker at the lunch.



# NOTES TO THE NATION

## Thank you for medical care

Dear Choctaw Nation,

On October 2, my niece, her three children, another niece and nephew were in a car wreck at Yanush. My niece and the mother and baby from the other vehicles were air lifted to hospitals in Fort Smith and Tulsa. Two 10-year-olds were taken by ambulance to McAlester Hospital. My 7-year-old niece, 5-year-old and 4-year-old great-nieces were taken by ambulance to Talihina Indian Hospital, which had been placed on trauma alert. Now, we are not of Indian descent, but upon arrival our little girls were cared for efficiently by loving and caring emergency room nurses. The 7-year-old was air lifted by helicopter on to Tulsa but these nurses cared for these girls, stood by their beds and reassured each scared little girl that everything was going to be all right.

What an asset the Talihina Indian Hospital and the staff are to our valley and community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Glena Watkins

## Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

A big thank you to the amazing staff at Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talihina.

My husband, James Blemmel, spent many a day and night there over the last three months and the staff was wonderful. The skilled nursing staff in the ER, the Med/Surg, the dietary staff, the nurses' aides and the housekeeping staff are all to be commended on their strive for excellence and achieving it.

We were always met with smiling and caring faces. Thank you.

Kathy Blemmel  
Talihina, Oklahoma

## Expressing appreciation

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all of the financial help I have received over this past year and hopefully in the next four years to come. I am so very thankful. Now I have my LPN license and I plan to keep going to get my RN degree.

Michelle Wilson  
Comanche, Oklahoma

## Thanks for school financial assistance

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I wish to extend many thanks to the Chief and the men and women of the Higher Education Department. You have been a constant support throughout my college career, both undergraduate and law school. The financial and cultural support was such a blessing, especially with the rising cost of education. The language program at the University of Oklahoma was a great source of knowledge and pride in my culture and heritage. Again, many thanks for all of the support over the years of education, I look forward to one day serving the tribe and my fellow members.

Scott Seidl

## Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank Chief Pyle, the Tribal Council and the Choctaw Nation for such a wonderful Labor Day Festival. The concerts were awesome, also the food, arts and crafts. I was very touched by the patriotism shown by the entertainers.

I am sending this picture of my uncle, Waldon Howard, son of Emery and Ethel Howard. Emery was an original enrollee in the Choctaw tribe. Waldon was a fighter pilot flying a P-51 or Mustang in WWII.

I would like to share part of a letter sent to my daddy, Cecil Howard, and his family.

Waldon wrote, "I will never set foot on German soil unless I have to bail out in a parachute."

Waldon's plane was shot down. He lived a few days in a German hospital before dying at the age of 23. It was years before he was brought back and buried at Shawnee. I have his wings and the metal tag that came on his casket.



Linda Howard Bible  
Holdenville, Oklahoma

## Seeking ancestors

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My name is Marcella L. Evans Traylor. My great-grandmother was Lular Rose Wilson. She had four brothers and sisters. They were from Canada and her mother left with a black, Irish man named Willie Wilson. They resided in Texas for a while and the children were later given to relatives to be raised. Lunar and Will were placed with an aunt. They moved to the Guthrie area in Oklahoma.

I will give more information when contacted.

Marcella Traylor  
P.O. Box 552  
Soso, MS 39480

## Seeking ancestors

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I'm looking for anyone that has any information on the Choctaw family Mambi. Stile Mambi was born about 1886. He was married to a Sara or Sallie Dyer, born about 1887. I'm not sure if that is her maiden name or if she was married before.

These were my great-grandparents. They had two children, Loren and Emaline. I was told they were from the Eagletown/McCurtain area.

My grandma, Emaline Mambi, passed when I was very young and I never got to find out about my Choctaw ancestors. Some years ago my mom and two of her siblings found out they have a rare form of cancer and that is what made me want to look into finding more information about my family.

Please, any information would be most appreciated. I can be contacted by e-mail mikencat@sbcglobal.net.

## Seaking ancestors

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I enjoyed the last issue of Bishinik so much because of the Turnbull annual gathering story. I am a descendant of Turner Beshears Turnbull. We have very little information on the family. I would be so happy to hear from anyone in the family that would share information with me. What I know is that Angeline was Turner's daughter and she married Dan Mathis. Angie and Dan were my grandmother's parents. Josephine Mathis Plaster was my grandmother. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you. Contact me at SandyVDL@adelphia.net or write:

Sandy Van Der Linden  
34711 Lyn Avenue  
Hemet, CA 92545

## Financial assistance appreciated

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am writing on behalf of my family to extend a most appreciated thank you to the Choctaw Nation and especially Staci Anderson for the help provided to my family during the past year. First, my nephew was involved in a severe hit-and-run accident which left him hospitalized for several months in Dallas. The Choctaw Nation assisted my family in many ways, which enabled us to remain with him in Dallas until he was able to return home. All the prayers and financial support that were provided by the employees, friends, and community members of Talihina touched our hearts in more ways than can be expressed.

Then over the summer, my older brother and his wife lost their home and furnishings in the floods in Iowa. Since they lived out of state, they did not think the Choctaw Nation could help them in any way. But I thought it might be worth a try to ask for assistance and the Choctaw Nation was able to help them. The support that was provided was both financial and emotional, since they are needing to rebuild from scratch. It made me proud to know that the Choctaw Nation could provide assistance to all Choctaws, no matter where they live.

Our family would like to thank the Choctaw Nation Council and Chief Pyle for providing the leadership to make such programs available for all Choctaws. Sincere thanks from David, Glenda and Todd Curley of Talihina; Steve and Judy Curley of Iowa; Catherine Curley of Talihina; and Sherman and Gloria Ward of Talihina.

Gloria Ward  
Talihina, Oklahoma

## Seeking ancestors

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Do you know of any of my relatives? My uncle, Jimmy Dale Sumpter, is living in San Diego, California. I remember my Aunt Annebell who lived in southern Oklahoma, around Pauls Valley in Garvin County. My grandfather was Jim Andy Sumpter. He married my Grandmother Leota, and they had my mom, Patty Sue, and my uncle, Jimmy Dale.

Gaylen Baker  
phone: 913-441-5513



All ages participated in carnival games and costume contests.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton, pictured above with Justin Byington, enjoyed the Outreach Halloween Carnival.



The Choctaw Nation Outreach Halloween Carnival was held by the Choctaw Nation Youth Outreach with the support of our Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Tribal Council and Outreach Services. There was tremendous help from other programs such as CARES, Safety, YAB, Higher Education and Bishinik. The staff's tiring efforts made this event a success. Everyone's help is greatly appreciated. The Carnival was open to the whole 10 1/2 counties with 850 to 900 kids attending. Needless to say it was a tremendous turnout. The kids enjoyed hotdogs, carnival games, a hayride and haunted trail.





# OBITUARIES

## Amy Elizabeth Boyle

Amy Elizabeth Boyle, 12, passed away on June 3, 2008, at her family's home in Reston, Virginia. She is the great-granddaughter of original enrollee Agnes Ainsworth of McAlester and the granddaughter of Ben Pushmataha McCarley, also of McAlester but now residing in Edmond.

Amy was well-known in the Reston community, having made friends, young and old, in her 12 years of life. After spending six years attending her siblings' games she began making her mark as an athlete. She excelled in the Reston Youth Basketball League and went on to play on both Reston and Great Falls, Virginia, travel basketball teams. Amy was known for her confident, focused play and her skills as a point guard.

Amy attended Dogwood Elementary School through the fifth grade and served in the student government there. She attended Hunters Woods Elementary School for sixth grade, until her illness prevented her from continuing. In her short time at Hunters Woods she made many friends, who responded to Amy's illness by forming a team to participate in this year's Reston Relay for Life. The team, called Amy's Amigos, raised \$8,000 for the American Cancer Society. Sunrise Valley Elementary School chose to honor Amy in their annual 5k Walk to raise money for Make-A-Wish Foundation. On a cold, rainy May morning over 400 people walked and ran, many of them friends, teammates, or coaches of Amy's, and raised \$17,000 for Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Amy earned a reputation for being forthright and realistic. She was at ease with a wide range of people, showing remarkable poise even when meeting her favorite team, the Pittsburgh Steelers. Her Make-A-Wish visit to Pittsburgh included an appearance on the Jerome Bettis Show during the 2007 football season. Amy served as ball girl for the South Lakes High School Seahawks baseball team throughout their 2007 season, during her brother Michael's senior year as outfielder and pitcher for the Seahawks.

God graced Amy with a tender heart for children, especially those with handicaps. The last few years Amy worked in the nursery each month at her church. She also returned home with great memories after having attended a camp in the summer of 2007 with other children suffering from cancer. She enjoyed the friendship of several Romanian children, including some disabled orphans.

In the end it was Amy's courageous and uncomplaining battle against a brain tumor that left her most lasting legacy. Her patient endurance of suffering and the limitations placed on such a vibrant, active, and vivacious child won the deepest respect of all who knew her.

Amy is survived by her parents, Michael and Hannah; sister, Mary; brothers, Michael, Tim and Nolan; grandparents, Don and Mary Boyle of Sterling, Virginia, and Ben and Alice McCarley of Edmond, as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins.

## Alma L. Bottoms

Alma L. Bottoms, 84, passed away September 24, 2008, in McKinney, Texas. She was born September 27, 1923, in Hickory, Oklahoma, the daughter of Leonard and Dora Elliott.

Alma was married to Clifford C. Bottoms in July of 1938. She was a dedicated Christian who loved the Lord. She was a loving and cherished wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and aunt. Alma was like an angel put onto earth who spent her time loving and caring for her family. Her favorite way of showing her love was cooking the perfect meal and making sure everyone was comfortable and in the land of plenty.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brother, Thomas Elliott; and sister, Lenita "Topsy" Butler.

Survivors include her son, Jim Bottoms and wife Bev; daughter, Janice Smith and husband Thomas; grandsons, Jim Brunner and wife Karen, and Jay Bottoms; granddaughters, Terry Graham and husband Dan, and Sherry Ferren; great-grandchildren, Paige and Tawny Graham, Christian, Tialyn, Savannah and Faith Ferren, and Christie, Michael, Danny and Jennifer Brunner; sister, Charlene Fox and husband Chuck Fox; brother, Bob Elliott; and numerous precious nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and many friends.

## Lindsey Rachelle Battiest

Lindsey Rachelle Battiest, infant daughter of Frederick Battiest and Rachel Miller of Hugo, was born and passed away July 23, 2008, in Oklahoma City.

Survivors include her parents; brothers, Jeremy Wade Battiest and Wesley Wickson of Hugo; sister, Mikayla Miller of Hugo; grandparents Presley Battiest Sr. of Wright City and Shirley and Dave Wickson of Hugo; and other family and friends.

## Deborah Ann Bell

Deborah Ann Bell passed away July 15, 2008. She was born November 7, 1952, in Norman to George and Evelyn Bell.

She was a devout Christian and attended church most Sundays. She worked at McDonald's at Crossroads for 11 years. She loved to swim at her spa and enjoyed the friends there.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Silas.

Survivors include her parents; brothers, George and wife Terri, and David and wife Renee; sister, Karen and husband Danny Kimbley; sister-in-law, Claudia Bell; and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and friends.

## William 'Bill' Gross

William "Bill" Eugene Gross, 69, of Raytown, Missouri, passed away August 12, 2008. He was born January 1, 1939, in Talihina to Hurley and Cora Gross.

Mr. Gross attended Haskell Indian College and was a house painter for 50 years. He was a member of Turning Point Assembly of God Church in Kansas City, serving as an usher and deacon. He was also president of the South Kansas Chapter of Full Gospel Businessmen.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Sharon Gross; and infant brother, Boyd Gross.

Survivors include his wife of 20 years, Betty Hobbach-Gross of Raytown; three daughters and their husbands, Sharon and Bill Perkins of Butler, Missouri, Vicki and Jeff McCann of Grandview, Missouri, and Lori Gross of Blue Springs, Missouri; six grandchildren, Jennifer Perkins of Joplin, Missouri, Jason Perkins of Raytown, Justin Perkins of Blue Springs, Jonathan Perkins of Butler, and Crystal McCann and Heather McCann, both of Grandview, Missouri; three brothers, Jim Gross, Joel Gross and Ramsey Thompson Jr.; and three sisters, Shirley Adair, Yvonne Arriola and Evylena Thompson.



## Joe Casey Isaac

Joe Casey Isaac, 26, of Talihina passed away August 23, 2008, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center. He was born March 31, 1962, in McAlester, the son of Randy Earl Mangrum and Lisa Isaac.

Joe had worked in the oil fields. He enjoyed taking his daughter and his brothers and sisters to fish and swim.

He was preceded in death by his aunt, Jeannie Mings, and uncle, Bobby Isaac.

Survivors include his daughter, Ally Dawn Smith of Bache, Oklahoma; mother, Lisa Isaac of the home; father, Randy Mangrum of Dallas, Texas; sister, Sydney Isaac; brother, Mark Munoz; cousins, Treylyn Redway and Kobe Redway, all of the home; two half-brothers, Randy Mangrum Jr. and Bennie Mangrum; half-sister, Brenda Mangrum; three aunts, JoAnn Rutherford of Bengal, Oklahoma, Debbie Mangrum of Mounds, Oklahoma, and Rhonda Isaac of McAlester; uncle, Dennis Isaac of Mannford, Oklahoma; grandparents, Joe Charles Isaac of Talihina and Sauline Isaac of Alderson, Oklahoma; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

## Mildred Corrine Edwards

Mildred Corrine Edwards, 71, passed away July 9, 2008, at her home in Hominy. She was born December 28, 1936, in Red Oak, the daughter of Houston and Melvina Colbert Baker.

As a young lady, Mildred attended Haskell High School where she graduated and on June 26, Mildred was united in marriage to Gene Edwards in Skiatook. They had made their home in Talihina and Sand Springs, Oklahoma, and Oakland and Vallejo, California, before making Hominy, Oklahoma, their permanent home in 1972. Mrs. Edwards worked at several places including the Dairy Land, Hominy Public Schools, as well as Munsingwear as a seamstress, and she was also a family provider for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; three brothers, John, Ralph and Bobby Baker; one sister; and four great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her six children, Glenn Edwards and wife Linda, Sharon Stanley, Roy Edwards and friend Jossie Pebeck, and Gene Edwards Jr. and friend Marsha Burris, all of Hominy, Charles Edwards and wife Laura of Greenfield, Missouri, and Terry Edwards and friend Jo Conner of Pawhuska; one brother, Houston Baker Jr.; 14 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, as well as a host of other relatives and friends who mourn her passing.

## Mary Louise West Deaton

Louise Deaton, 85, of Pauls Valley passed away September 4, 2008, in Pauls Valley. She was born June 25, 1923, in Francis, Oklahoma, to Albert Harley and Sarena Floy Broughton West.

Louise grew up and attended school in Francis. In 1941, she married Joseph "J.W." Deaton in Ada and they made their home there until moving to Pauls Valley in 1949. Louise worked as a dental hygienist for Dr. Royal P. Lewis, Dr. G.D. Smith Sr., Dr. Glen D. Smith Jr., and Dr. Don Meinders. She became a volunteer curator for the Santa Fe Depot Museum for 10 years and was pivotal in the restoration of the depot. Louise used her gardening skills with the landscaping for the depot and her beautifully landscaped yard. Her flower arranging skills were often sought after in local weddings and celebrations. Other talents included china painting, wood carving, and interior design. She had served as a Cub Scout, Girl Scout and Brownie leader and was active in many civic organizations. Mrs. Deaton was in Hemerocallis Garden and Extension Homemakers for more than 35 years, and worked in the original Rotary rose garden. Louise received a commendation from Gov. Frank Keating for her years of service to the City of Pauls Valley, was honored by 4-H Clubs and was Pauls Valley Citizen of the Year. She was most proud of her Choctaw heritage.

She was preceded in death by her husband; a daughter, Donna JoAnne Bloodworth; a son-in-law, Jerry Wayne Bloodworth; her parents; a brother, Albert West; and two sisters, Wanda Price and Hazel McFadden.

Survivors include a son, Ronnie Deaton and wife Shirley of Cushing; two daughters, Glenda Logan of Pauls Valley and Sandy Olson and husband Greg of Edmond; brother Wayne West of Colorado Springs, Colorado; sisters, LaVada Brown and husband Joe, Dixie Fields and husband Earl, and Carolyn Gearheart, all of Colorado Springs; sister-in-law, Barbara West of Colorado Springs; brother-in-law, Edward McFadden of Santa Clara, California; special family members Connie and Brian Sanders and their son, Mark, of Capser, Wyoming; five grandchildren, Chris Deaton of Cushing, Trey Deaton of Edmond, Jason Logan of Broken Arrow, Shelley vonPongracz of Columbus, Ohio, and Cassie Olson of Edmond; and nine great-grandchildren.



## Jimmy Paul Bryant

Jimmy Paul Bryant, 75, passed away on July 22, 2008. He was born December 24, 1932, at Talihina to original enrollee Dave Bryant and Cleo Smith Bryant. The family moved to California in 1935.

Jimmy was a graduate of Fresno State University. He served in the Air Force and was honorably discharged in 1961. He then became an insurance investigator, his vocation for 50 years. Jimmy was an active member of First Baptist Church, Tulare, California, where he held many leadership positions. He was proud to be a Native American and part of the Choctaw Nation. He was a big sports fan and especially loved the Fresno State Bulldogs.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Peggy Killinger, and a brother, Billy Bryant.

Survivors include his wife of 48 wonderful years, Betty Bryant, of Tulare; two daughters, Karen Bryant and Paulette Riezebos of Tulare; two brothers, Bobby Bryant of Tacoma, Washington, and Jerry Bryant of Oakhurst, California; four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Jimmy will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

## Edward 'Skip' Hall

Edward "Skip" Hall, 63, of Candler, North Carolina, passed away September 24, 2008, at the Memorial Campus of Mission Hospitals. A native of Vernon, Texas, he was the son of the late Loyd Hall and Lucille Hall Langham.

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Judy Klevens Hall; his son, Ron and wife Heidi of Candler; his daughter, Jennifer of Hendersonville, North Carolina; father-in-law, Arthur Klevens of Candler; granddaughters, Taylor, Caitlyn and Emily; brothers, Michael Langham and Norman Langham of Texas; sister-in-law, Leslie Klevens of Florida, and many nieces and nephews.

## William 'Billy Frank' Cuzalina

William "Billy Frank" Cuzalina, 52, of Hartshorne passed away September 15, 2008, in McAlester. He was born December 17, 1955, in Cushing.

He graduated from Seiling High School in 1974. He attended Southwestern Oklahoma State in Weatherford and Central State University in Edmond. He was the manager for Cuzalina Western Novelty. He enjoyed Harley Davidson motorcycles and rebuilding classic cars.

He was preceded in death by a stepfather, Carroll Murray; paternal grandparents, Frank and Ruth Cuzalina; and maternal grandparents.

Survivors include his daughter, Courtney Cuzalina of Stillwater; mother, Ruth Murray of Woodward; father, Frank Cuzalina and wife Janice of McAlester; daughter's mother, Sondra Cuzalina of McAlester; special friend, Kathleen Dobbs of Hartshorne; brothers, Charles Cuzalina of Oklahoma City, Lyle Cuzalina of Fort Worth, Texas, and Frank Jay Cuzalina of Colleyville, Texas; step-brother, Kenny Benson and wife Lori of Bixby; stepsisters, Denise Goff and husband Mike, Deanna Combrink and husband Clinton, all of Bartlesville; uncles, Dale Cuzalina and wife Dawn, Larry Cuzalina and Betty Hawkins, all of McAlester; aunts, June Wansick of Haileyville and Adrienne Bozarth of Broken Bow; numerous nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.



## Dave 'Sonny' Wickson Jr.

Dave "Sonny" Wickson Jr., 67, of Hugo passed away September 16, 2008, in Hugo. He was born June 28, 1941, in Soper, the son of Dave Wickson Sr. and Suzanna Tom Wickson. He had lived most of his life in Hugo.

His parents preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Wickson, and a granddaughter, Lindsey Battiest.

Dave was groundskeeper during the summer months at Springs Chapel Cemetery for the past 27 years. He also worked with Miller & Miller Funeral Home as cemetery set up man for the past 13 years. He was an honest, dependable and hard-working person who could always be counted on to do a job right. He was loved and highly respected by those he worked with. In his spare time, Dave enjoyed fishing and attending Choctaw church singings. He will be missed by all his family and friends.

Survivors include one son, David Wickson of Hugo; five daughters, Veanna Wickson, Jackie Smith, Rachel Miller and Sharon Deal, all of Hugo, and Rhonda Wickson of Fort Worth; four brothers, Ray Wickson of Sobol, Fred Wickson of Frogville, Holliston Wickson of Fort Towson and James Leflore Sr. of Hugo; three sisters, Ethel Ishcomer of Sobol, Judy Phillip of Goodland and Annie Mae Wickson of Hugo; 12 grandchildren, Wesley Wickson, Bradley Wickson, Grace Quiroz, Edward Wickson, Kyle Martin, Alexander Saucedo, Kara Deal, Taylor James, Tyler Wickson, Demarcus Tubbs, Mikayla Miller and Jeremy Battiest; three uncles, Elam Wesley of Detroit, Texas, Harrison Thomas of Boswell and Daniel Thomas of Hugo, along with many other relatives and friends.

## Catherine 'Hope' Trueblood Burrell Groomer

Catherine "Hope" Trueblood Burrell Groomer passed away September 19, 2008. She was born November 8, 1917, in Noble. Hope was a member of Mayridge Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Glessie Rische; her father, Gilbert Trueblood; sister, Evelyn Rogers; brothers, Sequoyah E. Trueblood and Emery D. Sanders; and husbands, Dink S. Burrell and Claud H. Groomer.

Survivors include her 10 children, Betty Hibdon, Barbara Burrell and Karen Amos, all of Oklahoma City, Quanah Burnett of Arlington, Texas, Jerry Holman and Dink "Sam" Burrell, and Cathy Higgins, all of Guthrie, Donna Foster of Fort Worth, Texas, Rick Burrell, MWC, and Matt Burrell of Bridgecreek; 18 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and 25 great-great-grandchildren.



## Sarah Ann Hardage Dixon

Sarah Ann Hardage Dixon, 82, passed away August 18, 2008, in her home surrounded by her beloved family and her three canine "babies," Jake, Cody and Ellie. She was born September 22, 1925, in Albany, Oklahoma, the sixth of 10 children born to John Dyer Hardage and Sammie Shaw Hardage.

She lived in Durant until she met and married the late Carl Lee Dixon on March 14, 1943. Sarah met Carl while he was stationed in Fort Sill. He came into the diner where she worked. She was the beautiful waitress and he the good-looking man in uniform.

Later, she moved with Carl to Greensboro, North Carolina, where she lived until her passing.

She was a member of Memorial Presbyterian Church for over 30 years. Sarah was employed as a seamstress by Tar Heel Fashions with over 30 years of service. After retiring, she continued to live life to the fullest doing dealer transfers with Carl for North State Chevrolet, Rice Toyota, and Green Ford. She was also a member of Happy Hearts Senior Group at Rankin Baptist Church and the Carolina Circle Mall Walkers.

Sarah enjoyed traveling, word search puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, gardening, sewing, ceramics, crocheting and baking for her family, friends and members of her church. She enjoyed doing for others and especially baking her coconut pie and honey bun cake which she gave away to many of her friends.

Sarah was preceded in death by her parents; her loving husband of 62 years; her brothers, John, Ben, Roy, Sam and Russell Hardage; her sisters, Oleana Whisnant, Helen Amonette, and a baby sister.

Survivors include her two daughters, Cathy Stultz of Greensboro and Sammie Nichols of Charlotte; her sister, Daisy Lawrence of Durant; three grandchildren, Jeffrey and Mike Nichols and Mindy Stultz Childress and husband Tim; five great-grandchildren, Tara Nichols Duffel, Josh, Jake and Luke Nichols, and Benjamin Childress; one great-great-grandchild, Madison Duffel; and many nieces and nephews.

## Josiah Amos

Josiah Amos passed away December 10, 2007. He was born November 3, 1918.





AROUND THE NATION

Pensacola-area Choctaws meet



Sina Oaks of Elk City, Oklahoma, is one of the Choctaw Language students who takes the Internet classes. She was visiting her daughter in Mobile, Alabama, and came to meet Chief Pyle and her language teacher, Lillie Roberts, in Pensacola.



Jerry Workman and Barbie Bray Workman of Pensacola pose with Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Michael Conner Moore helped Oneida Winship with door prize drawings.



David and Jan McCada of Pace, Florida, visit with Chief Pyle.



Rachel, Shawn and 10-month-old Darren Hartzell.



Joel and Dawn Vashey of Panama City visit with Chief Pyle.



Boyd Miller, originally of Caney, Oklahoma, now lives in Pensacola. He enjoyed meeting Chief Pyle.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton says hello to Ron and Lori Hadden of Dothan, Alabama.



Deanie McMakin of Crewstview speaks with Veterans Advocate Brent Oakes.

Choctaw families attend Daytona Beach event



Stella Robinson assisted Chief Greg Pyle with door prizes for the event in Daytona Beach.



Carmen and Henry Fuller are pictured with Chief Pyle at the meeting in Daytona Beach.



Jamille Robinson is pictured with Jason Mancuso, Molly Mancuso, and first-grader Stella Robinson.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Calvin Knight, Carolyn Walkup Knight, and Chief Greg Pyle enjoy the fellowship.



Veterans Advocate Brent Oakes is pictured with Floyd Boatner.



Travis Trueblood and his dad, Bill, pose with Chief Pyle in front of a banner featuring the Choctaw seal.



Terry Donahue, Helen Wilson Donahue, who celebrated her birthday on October 23, Chief Greg Pyle, Janet Donahue and Mike Ingram.



Kevin and Christine Smith are pictured with Assistant Chief Batton. The Smiths are among the many Choctaws who helped with calls to Congress on behalf of the Code Talker medal legislation.



Career Development Director Ken English is pictured with Sandy Grubbs and her brother, Sam Doyal. Mrs. Grubbs is picking up information for her daughter, Erin, who is in graduate school at Nova University.



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Do you want your book signed by the author? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**Cokeley says thank you**

Christina Cokeley graduated from college on August 8 earning her Bachelor's of Science degree in Health. Christina wants to thank the Choctaw Nation for their financial assistance in helping her to attain her goal. Christina plans to continue her education ad attain her Master's degree. Christina is the daughter of Gene and Icee Cokeley, granddaughter of Eva Logan Lanning and Ora E. Hamilton Jr., and great-granddaughter of the Rev. William F. Logan Sr. and Laura Potts Logan, one of the original Choctaw enrollees.

**Dominick receives master's**

Erin C. Dominick, 2002 Stillwater High School valedictorian, and a 2005 Oklahoma State University graduate received her Master of Science degree in Information Science from the University of Tennessee in August. Erin served as Secretary of the Special Library Association UT Chapter. Erin was a founding member of the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Pi Omega Sorority, the first Native American Sorority, and founding member of the Multicultural Greek Council at OSU. Erin interned for the past two years with the U.S. Department of Energy in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and has accepted a position as their Library and Information Program Liaison for the Office of Scientific and Technical Information. Erin is very grateful to the Choctaw Nation for their help and support throughout her academic career. Erin is the daughter of Darrel and Gwyn Dominick and the granddaughter of Max Dominick, all of Stillwater. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Crawford Altus and Clemmie Arlee Gardner Dominick of Hartshorne.

**Hallows earns degree**

Michael Andrew Hallows would like to express his gratitude to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for their scholarship program which enabled him to further his education. He obtained his Bachelor's of Science degree in Mass Communication with a minor in English from East Central University. He is the son of Juanita Ybarra and grandson of Manuel and Janey Ybarra of Coalgate.

**Young, Osburne marry**

Congratulations to Amanda Mae Osburne and Nonah Zachary Young who exchanged wedding vows on November 15, 2008, at the Choctaw Community Center in Talihina.

# One-of-a-kind cards available in book store

It may be summer outside, but the Choctaw Nation is getting ready for Christmas!

A one-of-a-kind Christmas card has just become available through the Choctaw bookstore. The front of the card features artwork by Norma Howard, noted Choctaw artist, and includes greetings in the Choctaw language. Inside the card is a Bible verse written in both Choctaw and English. Christmas cards are sold either as a single card and envelope (for \$1.50) or in packages of 20 cards and envelopes per package at a cost of \$20 per package.

Two other cards are available through the bookstore. One of these cards is a "Get Well" card, also featuring a Norma Howard illustration and a Choctaw Bible verse, which will be sold in packets of a single card and envelope at a cost of \$1.50.

The other newly available card is a beautiful "Yakoke" (Thank You) card on ivory paper with gold embossed lettering. The card is blank inside, allowing you to write your own message. This card will be sold in packages of 20 cards with envelopes at a cost of \$20.

Contact the Choctaw Nation Book Store now to place your order! Call 800-522-6170, ext. 5148, or 888-932-9199. You may also access the website [www.choctawschool.com](http://www.choctawschool.com).

Choctaw Nation Cards

Please send me the following quantities:

Christmas card – single (\$1.50 each)

Christmas card – 20 pack (\$20 each)

Get Well card – single (\$1.50 each)

Yakoke card – 20 pack (\$20 each)

Ship to \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please check

Payment method: Credit Card \_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_ Money \_\_\_\_

If paying with a credit card:

Charge my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Choctaw Nation Book Store  
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702

# Reservations for Labor Day RV sites

No reservations will be accepted prior to January 1, 2009

- PAYMENTS  
All 2009 reservations will be made by mail.  
Reservations must be post-marked January 1, 2009, or later. Reservation must be paid in full in the form of a money order or cashier's check.  
NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. All personal checks will be returned without reservations being made. The fee for the week-end's camping from Thursday through Monday will be **\$75**.
- VEHICLES WITH RVs  
The payment of **\$75** allows one (1) RV/travel trailer and one (1) vehicle into the RV area. A \$10 fee will be charged for each additional vehicle pass requested.  
Due to limited space, no reservations will be made for public tables, tents, or boats in the RV area. No tents will be allowed to hook up to an RV outlet. The **\$75** camping fee is for one RV only.
- EARLY ARRIVALS  
An additional fee will be charged for those entering early. A charge of \$10 per day will be charged for electrical hook-up per day per RV/camper.
- REFUNDS  
No refunds will be given after August 14, 2009. All pads not filled by 6 p.m. on Saturday will be offered to those on a waiting list. A fee will be charged to these RV campers.
- PHONE RESERVATIONS  
NO PHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED – NO EXCEPTIONS. One reservation per application. We will do our best to respect requests for preferred RV pads, however, we cannot guarantee you will get the pad number requested. Reservations will be dated and time stamped as received.
- GENERAL PARKING  
No RVs will be allowed to park in general parking.
- ANIMALS  
Dogs will NOT be allowed in the festival area with the exception of dogs owned by physically challenged individuals. Respect your neighbor and clean up after your animal.
- SANITATION  
A sign-up sheet will be provided at the RV booth for those wishing to have on-site dumping of gray and black water tanks.  
Payment will be made to employees at the RV booth. There will be a \$50 fine for anyone caught dumping gray or black water in the RV area. A local dumping station is provided for individual dumping by sanitation personnel. A second warning would mean eviction of the camping area.
- TOW-AWAY OF VEHICLES  
Any vehicle blocking access roads/areas between RV rows may be towed at owner's expense.

2009 RV Space Reservation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

RV self-contained camper description and length: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of slide-outs \_\_\_\_\_

– Only one (1) reservation per application –  
No reservations accepted prior to January 1, 2009

Please return to:

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
ATTN: Margaret Jackson  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702

Please return the above form with your reservation. Please include a copy of your CDIB. Be sure to include the length of your RV or camper and the number of slide-outs. We need a daytime telephone number should we need to contact you. Thank you.

# Students make field trip to Wheelock

Forty-seven students, along with Principal Brian McAdams, from the Junior High Multi-Cultural Class in Mt. Pleasant, Texas, visited the Wheelock Campus on October 8. Wheelock Academy is located in Milerton, Oklahoma, in McCurtain County. The former mission school is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Historical buildings at Wheelock include Pushmataha Hall, in background; LeFlore Hall, the Classroom Building, a museum and gift shop. To schedule a group tour of Wheelock, please call 580-746-2139.

# Parnell hosts debate party

Blaine Parnell, a senior at Smithville High School, hosted a Presidential Debate Party at the Choctaw Community Center in Smithville on September 26.

Curtis McDaniel, Superintendent, and Teresa Ericson, Computer Technologist at Smithville High School, assisted Blaine in setting up a huge screen at the community center for viewing the debate via satellite. The event was well-attended.

He wishes to express his thanks to the Choctaw Nation for use of the community center, Debbie Conley, Darlene Cusher, Mr. McDaniel and Teresa Ericson, and everyone who attended and helped assure the success of this endeavor.