

Tribal Council appoints Burrage as Tribal Judge

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met on October 10, 2009 in regular session at Tushka Homma. The meeting was opened with prayer led by Tribal Council Chaplain Joe Coley and then followed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag. Tribal Council Speaker of the House Delton Cox welcomed guests to the monthly meeting and then asked for committee reports. After reports were given, the Tribal Council addressed new business:

- The acceptance of the letter of resignation from Tribal Judge Jamie Wolfe and the acceptance of letter of appointment for David Burrage as Tribal Judge.
- The approval to dispose of various vehicles and surplus equipment by the Fixed Assets Department in the quickest manner possible.
- Underground electrical system easement in favor of PSO in McCurtain County.
- Business Lease in favor of Billy Black in Pittsburg County.
- Approval of funding for Choctaw Nation P.L. 102-477 Programs for PY 2009 Workforce Investment Act Program Adult Services and Choctaw Nation Supplemental Youth Program.
- Approval for budget modification for Choctaw Nation Women Infant, and Children (WIC) Program Fiscal Year 2009. This budget is also supplemented by several federal grants and formula rebates.
- Approval of the budget for Choctaw Nation Environmental Office General Assistance Program granted by EPA.
- Approval of the budget for Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Section 121 Program.
- Approval of the budget for Choctaw Nation Faith-Based Counseling for Crime Victims in Indian Country Grant.
- Approval of the budget for Tribal Victim Assistance Grant fiscal year 2009/2010.
- Approval of the budget for Choctaw Nation (Victim of Crime Act) VOCA Grant-Elder Advocacy fiscal year 2009/2010.
- Authorize the sale of Blue Ribbon Downs and/or its assets.



2009 Outstanding Choctaw Elders honored
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The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

To enhance the lives of all members through opportunities designed to develop healthy, successful and productive lifestyles.

Openings, groundbreakings signs of success



Renovations to the Travel Plaza at Grant are complete, boasting a new exterior as well as expanded floor space inside.



Eight Independent Elderly Living Apartments are opened in Hugo as well as a large, nicely furnished common area with a safe room.



Construction of a new 24,000-sq.-ft. Social Services building and a 10,000-sq.-ft. Wellness Center has begun in Hugo.



Partnership continues between Choctaw Nation and City of McAlester as shovels turn for a new Emergency Response Center.

Choctaw Defense receives Leadership Award

Choctaw Defense, a business owned by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, has been presented the 2009 Governor's Manufacturing Leadership Award. The company's customers include the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force. Over the past 20 years, Choctaw Defense has produced tens of thousands of aluminum and steel shipping and storage containers. These containers are built to stringent military specifications and are used for items ranging from guided missiles to helicopter engines.

Choctaw Defense is the sole supplier for the Improved Army Space Heater, which includes sophisticated environmental controls to provide filtered air in chemically or biologically contaminated conditions. The company also manufactures a variety of ground support equipment and flight critical aircraft components for the Army Blackhawk Helicopter and the Air



Force C17 Cargo plane.

This fall, Choctaw Defense is starting production on one of its largest projects ever – a \$62 million contract to build the next generation of medium tactical vehicle trailers for the Marines. It is the culmination of a five-year journey that included countless hours of design and engi-

neering work performed by Choctaw Defense itself. Three versions of the trailers will be constructed in a new 80,000-sq.-ft. facility in McAlester.

"Our goal is to find the best companies we can and honor them," said Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance President Roy Peters. He said it was a tremendous achievement

that out of 600 companies, Choctaw Defense, Tracker Marine Group, Wilco Machine & Fab and Acme Engineering and Manufacturing were selected to be recognized.

Choctaw Defense is proud of the prosperity the growing company brings to Southeastern Oklahoma. More than 140 good jobs are being created and that's vitally important these days. "Under the leadership of Chief Gregory E. Pyle and the Tribal Council, we've been able to grow into a world-class manufacturer and have made a name for ourselves in all parts of the world," says CEO Steve Benefield.

More than anything, Choctaw Defense is proud of the efforts in supporting America and its soldiers. "For us, profit is secondary when it comes to supporting our troops," Benefield concludes. "We're happy to make a difference in our community, in our state, and in our country."

120 presented diplomas at 12th annual GED graduation

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Adult Education Program presented diplomas to graduates of 2009 during its 12th annual GED graduation ceremony September 18 at the Mitchell Auditorium at Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton.

Music was presented by the Native American gospel group The Revelators before and during the graduation ceremony.

After Tribal Councilman Kenny Bryant opened the graduation ceremony with a prayer, 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 Tribal Council members and spoke about how welcoming Eastern Oklahoma State College campus was to host the annual event.

Keynote speakers were Cathie Carothers, Assistant Superintendent Elementary and Secondary Education of District of Columbia, and Dr. Steven Smith, Eastern Oklahoma State University president.

Dr. Smith states, "This is an awesome achievement, don't stop here. Once you walk across this stage, keep going. You have been given a chance to gain more educational opportunities. Southeastern Oklahoma has many great institutes of higher education with Southeastern Oklahoma



State University, Carl Albert, Murray State College and of course Eastern Oklahoma State University. Also, don't forget all of our Vocational-Technical schools. Education is about perseverance."

This was a year of "firsts" for the Adult Education's GED program with their top-ranking graduate, Shannon Hutcherson, receiving the highest score ever on his final exam, and a 78-year-old graduate, Sequoyah Roberts, the oldest graduate ever. Ranking in the Top 10 of 120 students are Christofer T. Baker, Joshua Cirar, Junie Copeland, Rachel Folsom, Shannon Hutcherson, Michael Jacob,

Michelle Moody, Melissa Tobias, Marissa Walton and Alyssa Wolbert.

The 2009 Choctaw Nation graduates are Teler Akers, Sarah Armstrong, Anthony Ashley, Christofer T. Baker, Chris R. Baker, Kimberly Baker, Norma Barlow, Crystal Berryhill, Sellesta Biggs, Samuel Billy, Thomas Blundell, Kristopher Bowlin, Brian Branam, Sharon Brown, Tiffany Capps, Cody Carnes, Christa Childers, Jordache Ciacco, Joshua Cirar, Junie Copeland, Patrick Cornell, Kirsten Coslow, Ronnie Davis, Caleb Denton, Shawna Dodd, Ashley Duncan, Jennifer Eden, Kyle Fincher, Jordan Fixico, Richard Fleming, Ra-

chel Folsom, Stephen Gardner, Amber Glasco, Judy Golden, Brenda Graywolf, Randal Hampton, Gayla Hayes, Samantha Holbird, Chris Holmes, Kimberly Hopkins, Shannon Hutcherson, Michael Jacob, Shannon Johnson, Cassie Jones, Leslie Joplin-Renfro, Mali Keeton, Carolyn Kelly, Johnson Kemp, Dana Kuykendall, Herman Leflors III, Nathaniel Letterman, Ariel Littrell, Jonathan Mares, Kameron McBride, O'Dell McCalip, Tony Meaders Jr., Michelle Moody, Edna Morales, Janie Nixon, Christopher Orozco, Joseph Owens, Timothy Patty, Jessica Perry, Amy Phillips, Brandi Poe, Sheila Pyle, Jessica Qualls, David Redenius, Kathryn Rednose, Shayna Rice, Shannon Roath, Cameron Roberts, Sequoyah Roberts, Regina Roberts, Jonna Robinson, Isabell Ross, Angela Samuel, Tonihka Scott, Tiffany Scott, Whitlee Scriver, Hailey Self, Justin Slotta, Heather Steely, Carol Suggs, Gary Summers Jr., Starla Sweeney, Boyd Taylor, Daniel Taylor, Justin Taylor, Jesse Terrell, Brenda Thomas, Isaac Tisho, Melissa Tobias, Tamra Trantham, Edna Trout, Rachel Verdugo, Marissa Walton, Cody Ward, Derek Watson, Patrick Watson, Cole Weaver, Brandon Wesley, Brain Williams, Daryllynn Williams, LaDonna Williams, Alyssa Wolbert, Noah Womack, Alisha Wylie, Rebecca Yeager and Cody Zachary.

Reservations for Labor Day RV sites

– PAYMENTS

All 2010 reservations will be made by mail.

Reservations must be post-marked January 1, 2010, 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 weekend’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 13, 2010. 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.

No reservations will be accepted prior to January 1, 2010

– 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 from the camping area.

2010 RV Space Reservation

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Daytime Phone Number

E-mail

Alternate e-mail

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.

– TOW-AWAY OF VEHICLES roads/areas between RV rows may be towed at owner’s expense. Any vehicle blocking access

Updating records for the Bureau of Indian Affairs

A note from the office of Tribal Membership

Greetings to all Choctaw/Mississippi Choctaw of Oklahoma.

We are updating our records for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and are noticing that there are many who applied for and were issued a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood but have not applied for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Membership Card. This means your children, grandchildren or other family members will not have theirs.

If you are not a member of another tribe, please complete the included form for yourself and for other family members, including minors. For those who are 16 years of age or older, they will need to sign their own. Please send a copy of each person’s state birth certificate for our records. If you have lost a family in the past two years, please send us a copy of their death certificate.

Please keep in mind, you may have several blood links to different tribes, but you can only be a member of one tribe. This has nothing to do with your blood degree, only membership.

We hope that you will become a proud member of the great Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. We have over 190,000 members, and this number changes daily.

Also, the BIA often contacts this office for addresses of those who may have individual Indian money accounts or inherited land/money. Please ensure we have your correct address.

THE GREAT SEAL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

Application for:
Tribal Membership/Voters Registration
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702
Phone: (580) 924-8280 or (800) 522-6170 Fax: (580) 924-4529

Name (please print) First Middle Last Maiden

Address Street P.O. Box City

State ZIP Code County Phone Number

Birthday Sex Social Security Number (Must be provided)

I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE. I AM NOT A MEMBER OF ANOTHER TRIBE, NOR AM I REGISTERED TO VOTE WITH ANOTHER TRIBE.

Signature

Date

Please complete one for ALL minors. Under 16 years of age, parent will need to sign. 16 years and older need to sign for themselves. Once you reach the age of 18 years you can vote.

IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA, YOU MAY AFFILIATE WITH ONE OF THE DISTRICTS BELOW. ONCE YOU AFFILIATE, YOU MUST REMAIN IN THE DISTRICT YOU HAVE CHOSEN.

Residents: Residents of the Choctaw Nation (ten and one-half counties) will be registered in the precinct in the county in which they reside. Absentee voting will be allowed by written request to the Election Board Chairman prior to an election or referendum.

Non-Residents: Applicants residing outside the Choctaw Nation will be registered to vote by mail.

Do you want your name and address released to the general public? Yes No

PLEASE CHECK THE PROPER DISTRICT AND PRECINCT:

District 1
☐ Idabel
☐ Valliant

District 2
☐ Broken Bow
☐ Bethel

District 3
☐ Burkhardt
☐ Smithville
☐ Talihina
☐ Heavener

District 4
☐ Poteau
☐ Spiro
☐ Summerfield
☐ Heavener

District 5
☐ U- Stigler
☐ Kinta
☐ Keeto
☐ Spiro

District 6
☐ Buffalo
☐ Red Oak
☐ Wilbarton
☐ Quinton

District 7
☐ Antlers
☐ Choctaw Council House
☐ Rattan
☐ Wright City

District 8
☐ Hugo
☐ Boswell
☐ Fort Towson

District 9
☐ Bennington
☐ Durant
☐ Calera

District 10
☐ Atoka
☐ Kiowa
☐ Strington
☐ Caddo
☐ Lane

District 11
☐ Hardhorse
☐ McAlester
☐ Kiowa

District 12
☐ Coalgate
☐ Canadian
☐ Atwood
☐ Tupelo
☐ Arpela

For Office Use Only -
Date Approved or Disapproved: Reason for disapproval:

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

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The BISHINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISHINIK reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be type-written and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached. Due to space limitations and the quantity of article submissions, we are unable to include everything we receive.

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

The BISHINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation.

Circulation is monthly. Article deadline is the 10th of the month for the following month’s edition.

BISHINIK® 2009

Conservation Cost-Share informational meeting

The Choctaw Nation will be hosting a conservation informational meeting to discuss funding opportunities for local farmers, ranchers, tribes and tribal landowners. Valuable information will be provided to attendees on the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Farm Bill Programs and program opportunities from other federal and state agencies.

The meeting will be held on November 20 at the new Choctaw Nation Community Center, located south of Durant. The meeting is open to the public and will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 12 p.m.

The meeting will be sponsored by the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA). NRCS, FSA, Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC), Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey will be presenting valuable program information and funding opportunities to attendees.

The Choctaw Nation Community Center is located south of Durant. Follow 69/75 south to the stop light, turn left (east) and go past the steakhouse and turn left (north), turn right at Big Lots Warehouse (east) and follow the road to the Community Center.

For more information contact Art Muller at 405-878-4672; Ann Colyer, 580-924-8280, ext. 5134; Darrel Dominick at 405-269-6419; or Carol Crouch, NRCS, Purcell at 405-527-3241, ext. 108.

NOTES TO THE NATION

Seeking family descendants

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My great-great-grandfather was Judge Henry C. Harris and his daughter was Mattie J. Harris who married William J. Whiteman.

Henry C. Harris’ uncle was Lorenzo G. Harris, one of his sons was John G. Harris, and his son was J. Emmet Harris who was born in 1877 in Choctaw Nation. He attended Polytechnic College at Fort Worth where he remained for two years. He then returned to farm on the Red River area, then was engaged in the grocery business in Haworth. He was well known. In 1899 he married Maggie Manning. They had one child, Emma M. Harris, born in 1909. Emmet Harris, the Manning and Stirewalt families were closely entwined.

Emmet Harris remarried and had a son by a second wife. The son was killed in World War II. J. Emmet Harris died in 1923, and I have been trying to locate his burial site (tombstone). If someone knows about this please contact me. I also want to meet the descendents of Walter C. Harris who married Sallie Washington, Sarah E. Warren, and Effie Spades. Also, the descendents of Bert S. Harris who married Mary D. McKeever.

Please contact me at tvw59@yahoo.com or write me at 5284 Ruff Rd., Fort Worth, TX 76140. Thank you.

Tommy V. Whiteman

Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The family of Ida Taylor would like to say thank you to Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton, Councilman Jack Austin and CHRs Oma Clay, Bea Parker, Maria Moore, Bruce Frazier and Kenny Gilmore, and everyone else who gave condolences, flowers and food.

Angela James

Seeking information

Dear Choctaw Nation,

While searching for my family, I found an obituary in the Choctaw Nation paper of my grandmother, Elvie Irene Wilson Cordier. That was my first time seeing a photo of my grandmother. My father was listed as preceding her in death. His name was Wayne Donald Cordier Jr. I never met him and did not find out about his death until I was 17, I recently turned 20. I had contact briefly with my uncle, Frank Cordier and Aunt Kay. Kay is mentioned in the article as living in Linn, Missouri. I assume since an obituary was printed one of the relatives gets the paper regularly. I would very much like to contact my surviving family and any help would be appreciated. Please e-mail me at jesslowegronberg@yahoo.com

Jessie Irene Lowe-Gronberg
Buckley, Washington

Myers is continuing education

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you for the financial aid that the Choctaw Nation has given to me this school year. The scholarship that was awarded to me for the 2009-10 school year is greatly appreciated and much-needed. It has enabled me to continue my pursuit of an Early Childhood-Sixth Grade Generalist Degree with ESL at Tarleton State University.

Kerri M. Myers
Granbury, Texas

Uplifting to know others care

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you so very much for the help we received from you during our recent crisis. It is uplifting to know there are still those who care about others. We would like to send a special thank you to Tiffany in Emergency Services for her prompt attention and assistance.

Kimberly Nees and family
Pryor, Oklahoma

Thank you for fast service

Dear Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership,

Thank you all for the fast resolution for our student, Robert Mauer III. You guys gave GREAT service!

Eddie Landry
Roadmaster Drivers School

Appreciates support at premium sale

Dear Choctaw Nation,

With the new school year beginning and a new show season in front of me I would like to take this opportunity to thank Choctaw Nation for the support I received at the 2009 Lefflore County Premium Sale. I appreciate sponsors like Kenny Bryant and Delton Cox that take an interest in our youth of today. Knowing that there are sponsors that support our hard work to get to county encourages me to worker harder for the 2010 show season.

Scott Helm
Talihina, Oklahoma

Needing information

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I attended elementary school at S.S. Dillow about 1967-69. In the first grade my best friend was a Choctaw boy named Scott who had an older brother. I don’t know their last name. Scott and I would race after school to see who was the fastest. Scott would barely beat me every time. We were friends for just about a year. Scott and his family moved away, maybe to Oklahoma. I remember one time, I found a big quartz rock at Scott’s home. I would like to contact Scott. Please contact me at tvw59@yahoo.com or write me at 5284 Ruff Rd., Fort Worth, TX 76140 if you have any information. Thank you.

Tommy V. Whiteman

Care packages mean a lot

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My husband and I would like to express our gratitude for the numerous care packages he has received while serving in Iraq. It means a lot to us to know the troops are not forgotten about.

Spc Shawn Smith and wife

Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council for all the care you gave Marvene B. Glover Parker and family during her stay here.

W.A. Parker Jr.

Our military heroes deserve our thanks



From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

It is humbling to hear the actions taking place overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan, with our men and women who serve in the military constantly in danger. The things we are able to do for them to show our appreciation are but a drop in the bucket compared to the sacrifices given.

The tribe continues to send care packages to the active military serving in the War Against Terrorism. We encourage you to send any eligible soldiers' names and addresses to our Veterans Advocacy Department to be included in these mailings. If they are Choctaw or a friend of a Choctaw, the Choctaw Nation would like to honor them through the gift of a care package.

The Choctaw Nation has also been an official drop-off site for Cell Phones for Soldiers since May 2008. Thanks to the generosity of tribal members, staff and friends, the tribe has been able to send 1,000 old cell phones and accessories to benefit our troops overseas.

Cell Phones for Soldiers sells the donated items for recycling and in turn provides phone cards for soldiers abroad. Drop-off boxes are located in Durant in the lobby of the Choctaw Nation headquarters, 16th and Locust. Donations may also be dropped off or mailed to the Veterans Advocacy Office, 324 N. Washington, Durant, OK

74701.

In addition to the care packages and cell phones, there are many ways that individuals pay tribute to our soldiers. Just recently, an employee told me of her 19-year-old niece who was sitting in an airport dressed in her Army MP fatigues, eating at Burger King while she waited on her flight. When someone sat down beside her and said "Hello, Soldier," she was surprised to see it was Kevin Costner. He asked about her, her family, where she was being deployed when she was leaving, and thanked her for the service she was giving to her country. When this young lady boarded her plane, the flight attendant came to her and said, "Miss, please come with me, you have been upgraded to first class." Although the attendant said she was not at liberty to confirm it, the young soldier knew that Kevin Costner had paid for the upgrade.

This is just one story of an individual showing appreciation in a manner which they were capable of. Individuals at Choctaw Nation showing appreciation to the National Guard and Reserves is what led to our tribe receiving the 2008 United States Freedom Award. I would enjoy hearing other stories of soldiers who have had unique exhibits of tribute for their service. Please share those stories with me and my office.

May God bless you and your family, and may God bless our military, past and present.

Be well-armed for the battle

We continue our study in Ephesians chapter 6. We are in a battle and we need to be well-armed for the battle. How do we begin?

For our lesson we want to read four verses from Ephesians 6:10-13:

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

First, we need to know we are fighting.

There is one who stands against the truth concerning himself. For he is the great imitator and deceiver who would have men believe a lie concerning him.

Paul says to the Ephesians in Ephesians 6:11: "... that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

The devil is very clever. He is clever to make us believe that he does not exist. That's the reason why we see so many ridiculous pictures of him. Dressed up in a red suit with horns and with a long forked tail and with an evil grin. If he is pictured like this there is little harm he can do, except to give us a bad dream. Satan is not the man below, shoveling coals into an eternal furnace.

And Satan is very clever. He hides in unbelievable places. He hides in religion, he hides in poetry and in art and in music.

We read in Job 2:2, "And the Lord said unto Satan, from whence cometh thou? And Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down in it."

What a picture, Satan walking all over the earth doing his work. He is no imagination, he is real and he is the enemy.

In Ephesians 6:12, you will

Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain

notice the word "against" is used five times.

The Christian is in a battle, there is something we are against, and someone who is against us. It is unhealthy to believe that there is no conflict in the Christian life because there is. There is a war between the flesh and the Spirit dwelling in your life.

Satan is the enemy and we are his enemy.

Isn't it interesting that Paul's instruction in Ephesians 6:10 is addressed to the brethren, "Finally, my brethren, be strong ..."

This is not a war by the Apostles, it is not a war for Pastors, this is a war for the Brethren.

That's you and me, all of us, who are Christians. Everyone of us are involved in the battle.

The enemy lines have been clearly drawn. It's the Lord and the brethren against Satan and the demons. And the battle goes on every day in your heart and in your life and in mine.

The Bible identifies the enemy in Ephesians 6:11 as the devil and in Ephesians 6:16 as the wicked one. We are fighting against the wiles of the devil and the darts of the wicked ones.

It is important for us to know something about our enemy. Nobody ever goes to war without learning all he can about the one he fights against.

The first thing to know about him is his personality. If you go

through the Bible and underline the names for Satan you will find out a lot about him.

He is called the deceiver, he is called the murderer, he is called the tempter, he is called the destroyer, he has been given the name Apollyon which means destroy. He is called the Beelzebub, the serpent, the liar, the accuser of the brethren, the prince, the evil one. He goes about as a lion. One passage says he is like an angel of light.

From generation to generation he continues his same attack. And everything about him and everything about his personality is wrapped up in that one thought.

One of the reasons why we don't do anything about putting on the whole armour is because we don't have any respect for the enemy.

We have not learned to understand that this one with whom we have to do is the second most powerful person in the universe, subject only to God, and he has power to destroy. How powerful is he?

The Bible says that men are held captive by the power of Satan, until delivered from it by the power of the Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ.

In II Corinthians 4:3-4 we read: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Will you trust Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior by faith today? How do you do this? Realize who God is. Realize what He has done. He sent His Only begotten Son to pay the penalty for sin.

(John 3:16). Then realize who you are. Agree with God you are a sinner and receive Him as your Savior. (Romans 3:23).

Pray for America. Pray for and honor our veterans and our brave men and women in service. Have a Happy Thanksgiving Day.

Learning about our history

From the Desk of
Assistant Chief Gary Batton

We have been fortunate to meet with Choctaws from several states in the past months, and it is great to see the huge interest in the heritage of the tribe. A couple of people have brought their family history to share with us, complete with photos, and one person asked for the Chief to autograph her copy of the Choctaw History book that is sold through the bookstore here at the Durant complex. Most evident is the interest in the language of the Choctaw Nation.

It is a blessing to be joined at the front podium by Lillie Roberts, a Choctaw Language teacher who often travels with us and shares a little of the language curriculum with the audience. She makes sure that everyone, including me and the Chief, participate and interact. When a question is asked in Choctaw, we are expected to respond in Choctaw. Thankfully, handouts are given to everyone so we can all read along as we learn!

This is a great way to learn the language and history of our tribe. These meetings are just a tidbit of the lesson - classes are available free on the Internet. You can log on to www.choctawnation.com and get information on the next available class. Several colleges, universities and public schools in the



tribal boundaries also offer the language class as an accredited course. Ironically, the credits are considered a "foreign language."

I encourage you to come to

meetings when we visit your area, to log on to the website, and to learn about our history and culture. The more I learn, the more I appreciate and respect our tribal people.



A Florida family recently spent their autumn vacation in Oklahoma, stopping one morning to visit with Chief Gregory E. Pyle. Chief Pyle is pictured with William Kyser and his four daughters, Liz Brantley, Stephanie Matula, Rebecca Van Son and Jenifer Kyser. Mr. Kyser and Liz had met the Chief at a meeting in their home state and while they were in Oklahoma for his veterinary school class reunion, also took advantage of the trip to come to Durant.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

in the Choctaw Nation

– Senior Citizen Dinners & Kids Christmas Parties –

Antlers Seniors	Decemberr 16	11:30 a.m.
Antlers Kids	December 7	6 p.m., up to age 10
Atoka Kids	December 3	6 p.m., up to age 12, at the Atoka Community Center on Liberty Road
Bethel Kids.....	December 10	6 p.m.
Broken Bow Kids	December 7	6 p.m.
Buffalo Valley Kids	December 14	6 p.m.
Burkhart Kids	December 10	7 p.m.
Coalgate Seniors.....	December 9	12 noon
Coalgate Kids	December 6.....	2 p.m., up to age 12
Crowder Seniors.....	December 16	11:30 a.m.
Crowder Kids	December 12	1 p.m.
Durant Kids	December 4	6 p.m.
Eagletown Kids.....	December 7	7:30 p.m.
Heavener Kids	December 7	7 p.m.
Hugo Seniors.....	December 16	11:30 a.m.
Hugo Kids	December 4	6 p.m. at Housing Culture Center
Idabel Seniors	December 9	12 noon
Idabel Kids.....	December 7	6:30 p.m.
McAlester Kids.....	December 12	1 p.m., up to age 10
McAlester Seniors	December 16	11:30 a.m.
Poteau Seniors	December 16	12 noon
Poteau Kids	December 12	4-6 p.m., up to age 10
Quinton Kids	December 10	6 p.m.
Smithville Kids	December 8	7 p.m.
Spiro Kids	December 14	4 to 6 p.m., age 10 & under
Spiro Seniors.....	December 15	11:30 a.m.
Stigler Kids	December 4	4 to 6 p.m.
Stigler Seniors.....	December 8	11:30 a.m.
Summerfield Kids.....	December 13	2-4 p.m.
Talihina Kids	December 11	7 p.m.
Tuskahoma Kids.....	December 5	2 p.m.
Wilburton Kids.....	December 12	6 p.m.
Wilburton Seniors	December 16	12 noon
Wright City Kids.....	December 8	6 p.m.
Wright City Seniors	December 17	12 noon

DFW Native American Chamber of Commerce
proudly presents the 4th Annual

Native American Awareness Expo

December 3, 2009
at Southfork Ranch
3700 Hogge Rd., Parker, TX 75002

FREE ADMISSION

Among the resources and information
you will be able to access are:

- Tribal Enrollment
- Language Programs
- Health Information
- Arts & Crafts Booths
- Housing
- Education
- Social Services
- Corporate Booths

– SCHEDULE –

1:00-3:00 p.m.	Vendors set up
3:00-8:00 p.m.	Vendors open
1:00-4:30 p.m.	Mansion tours
6:30 p.m.	Guest speakers
7:00 p.m.	Dinner

The DFW Native American Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to come to the Native American Awareness Expo at the famous Southfork Ranch and meet tribal representatives face to face. Tribal Nations are partnering with the DFWNACC to bring better access to tribal resources and information to members living in the DFW Metroplex.

Entertainment – Chance Rush, Comedian • Tribal Dancers • BearClaw Drum Group

For more information: www.dfnacc.org



Calli Reasnor instructs students during Hip Hop Lessons.

Jones enrichment program

As part of an enrichment program offered at Jones Academy, students receive art, modern dance, guitar, and piano lessons during the afterschool hours. Several students have signed up this semester to take advantage of the fun courses offered at the school. This year, Eastern Oklahoma State College student Calli Reasnor is teaching a class on Hip Hop Dance. Pat Warden is giving one-on-one piano lessons to individual students a couple of times a week.



Pat Warden is pictured with ninth-grader Cheyenne Neal at the piano.



Beauty, health care classes held at Jones Academy

This year, Jones Academy is offering Beauty and Health Care classes for teenage girls. Students can learn about proper skin care as well as having a healthy self-esteem. (Pictured) Beauty and Health consultant Sheryl Sanchez works with students during an evening session. The junior high through high school girls received tips on proper face washing and makeup application.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays December 1-28, except for:

- December 2: Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m.
- December 9: Bethel 9-10:30 a.m.; Smithville 12-2 p.m.
- Closed December 11 for Staff Meeting
- Closed December 24, 25 for holidays.
- December 29, 30, 31 for inventory.
- Food Demo – December 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

DURANT

Warehouse open weekdays December 1-28, except for:

- Closed December 11 for staff meeting
- Closed December 24, 25 for holidays.
- Closed December 29, 30, 31 for inventory.
- Food Demo – December 23 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays December 2-28, except for:

- December 1: Stigler 9-12 a.m. (market closed).
- Closed December 11 for staff meeting
- Closed December 24, 25 for holidays.
- Closed December 29, 30, 31 for inventory.
- Food Demo – December 15 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays December 1-28, except for:

- Closed December 11 for staff meeting.
- Closed December 24, 25 for holidays.
- Closed December 29, 30, 31 for inventory.
- Food Demo – December 8.

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

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The sweet tooth and sweet drinks

WIC

Children are born with a sweet tooth. They tend to prefer sweet foods. Many of their favorite foods are high in sugar. We should enjoy a variety of foods. However, some children can eat too many sweets and sweet drinks. This can lead to empty calories from cookies, candies, cake, pie, soda and other types of sweet juices and drinks.

Too much sugar can cause problems for small children such as:

Tooth Decay – Children who eat lots of sweets are more likely to have cavities. Bacteria uses sugar to make cavities in children’s teeth.

Obesity – Sweets can add up to a lot of extra calories. An average preschooler needs 1,600 calories each day. One can of soda and a candy bar have 500 calories. Overweight may not always be caused by what a child eats. It may also be caused by what the child drinks.

Fussy Eaters – Sweets can ruin an appetite fast! Some children will prefer sweet foods and drinks and refuse to eat meals. They can actually become underweight. This type of fussy eater can cause a lot of concern for their parent. The child may only eat sweet foods and parents will give the sweets because they want their child to “eat something.”

Keep sweets out of the house. If your child sees pop in the regrigerator or candy in the cupboard, they will want it. Most children will keep asking for sweets if they know sweets are in the house. Make sweets a special “sometimes treat.”

Set a good example. Your child will want to eat when they see you eat and others enjoying. Enjoy eating smaller servings of sweet foods. Cut bars, cakes or pies into smaller pieces. Enjoy a half serving of dessert. Make smaller cookies. Avoid the king-size candy bars and buy smaller pieces of candy.

Limit sweet drinks such as soda and fruit drinks. Offer water instead. Limit fruit juice to 4-6 ounces or less each day. Some children will fill their small tummies with sweet fruit juices and refuse to eat.

Offer food such as fruit with a sweet taste at the end of the meal, as part of the meal. Don’t bribe with sweets! Bribing will only make your child want the sweets more.

Courtesy of Nutrition Matters Inc.

To the Youth of the Nation

By Mia McKee
Choctaw Nation
Youth Advisory Board

Teenagers are pressured by many different things every day. Being a teen myself, I know this to be true. Things we have to decide on are the small stuff like what to wear to school or something that can be life-changing like where to go to college.

A major thing that I am dealing with right now is picking a college. Who would have thought that there are so many things to consider while picking a college that is right for you?

However, every teenager is different and stresses about different things.

A big thing for most teens is choosing how to handle peer pressure. This is an important decision for many reasons. One reason is that it’s important to avoid bad peer pressure, such as drinking or smoking. If your friends always want you to go party with them and you know that it’s wrong it’s important to not just go along with it because it’s “cool.”


You should try suggesting something else like catching a movie or going bowling.

These decisions can be very stressful, and are just a few things teenagers deal with on a daily basis.

Choctaw language classes ongoing in Muskogee

A Choctaw Language Class is in session at Fife Memorial Methodist Church, located at South K Street and East Okmulgee in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Phase 1 has started and is open to anyone who is interested in learning or brushing up on their Choctaw language.

The Choctaw Nation class will be held every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. for 16 weeks. The class is free, please come and join us.



Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline

1.800.QUIT.NOW

NURSERY NEWS

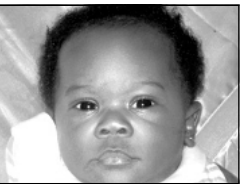
Presley Danielle Bender

Bryan and Alena would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Presley Danielle Bender, born February 11, 2009, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center. Presley weighed 10 pounds 4 ounces and was 21 inches long. Grandparents are Ferris Ashalintubb of Honobia, Dianne Sam of McAlester and George and Ramona Bender of Anna, Texas. Great-grandparents include Ruth Jackson of McAlester, the late Bennie and Ella Bender, Virgil and Bessie Sam of McAlester and the late Charley and Lanisa Sam. Presley met Chief Greg Pyle at the 2009 Labor Day Festival Pow Wow.



Iman Nicole Harris

Iman Nicole Harris was born July 1, 2009, weighing 6 pounds 5 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. She is the daughter of proud parents Tajuana Ward and Cedric Harris. She is the granddaughter of Ruth Thompson and great-granddaughter of Caroline Thompson of Paris, Texas. She has two brothers who are very protective of her.



Jones Palmer Winters

Jones Palmer Winters was born at 9:24 a.m. May 6, 2009, in Talihina. He weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 inches long. Roy and Amanda Winters are the proud parents. He has one older sister named Snowey Winters. Grandparents are Lisa and Larry Winters of Savanna, George Heaslet of Arpelar, Kathy McDaniel of McAlester, Johnny and Virginia Winters of Stringtown, Charlene and Leroy Painter of McAlester, Roy Holiday of McAlester, Judy Irvin of McAlester, Beulah and Earmel McKinzie of McAlester and Colleen and Lloyd Heaslet of McAlester.



Gibsons hold annual family reunion

Family and friends of the late Adam and Winnie Pope Gibson enjoyed a day of visiting, taking pictures, and eating lunch together at the Choctaw Community Center during their annual reunion.

Eighty-eight people were in attendance.

Coming in from out of town for the event were Kendall, Peggy and Gage Steele, Okemah; Tamie Walker, Okemah; Norma Shelton, Beggs; Lamam Pope Jr., Mayer, Arizona; Jeff and Jelynn Pope, Prescott, Arizona; Rhonda Kleinsteinber, Surprise, Arizona; Leslie, Jr., Addie and Ryan Gibson, Anna,

Texas; Wade and Debbie Duna-gan, Blackwell; John and Susan Scharpf, San Diego, California; Larry and Rebecca Hill, Crosby, Texas; Ruth and Lana Sullivan, Moore; George and Brenda Stevens and Dan and Delsie Bosley, all of Wichita, Kansas; and Mark Wilkinson, Moore.

Coming from the McAlester area were Ada Gibson Lusk, Ann Gibson Smith, Jim and Marie Gibson, Bud and Clara Gibson Blevins, Joan Blevins, Janie Gibson Lampkin, Dick and Regina Steele, Nathan, Hillary, Joey and Colter Steele, Randall, Tonya and Rocky Dean Wilson, Althea Gibson Johnson,

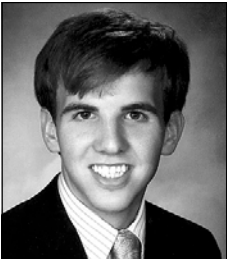
Melissa, Alex, Adam and Avery Johnson, Dixie, Augusta and Anthony Regan, and Fred and Debbie Gibson Workman.

Also, Destiny Raleigh, Laticia Rose, Briar and Lily High-town, John Coffman, Steven Lynn and Lee Gibson, Thelma Mainus, Rachelle, Chese, Kris and Sandra Gibson Hatcher, Walter, Sarah and Leanna Amos, Kathy Mowery, Larry Amos, Angie Woods, Carol Crouch, Patricia and Hope Johnston, Antonya and Bryer Stites, Brian Hauck, John Henry and Earlene Cook, George Earnest and Debbie Cook, and Bob and Robbie Karr.

Russell named Merit Scholar

John B. Russell of Victoria, Texas, the great-grandson of original enrollee John Russell Jr. of Davis, has been named a National Merit Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Of the 1.5 million seniors in the 2009 high school graduating classes participating in the process, only 2,500 high school seniors in the United States were awarded the prestigious honor. Less than 220 high school seniors in the combined states of both Texas and Oklahoma earned this distinction. A graduating senior from St. Joseph High School in Victoria, John was captain of the swim team and participated in state swimming and band championships for his high school.

John is a direct descendant of Rhoda Pitchlynn, sister of famed Principal Chief Peter Pitchlynn. John is also a descendant of Arabella Howell, sister of famed Choctaw physician Dr. Thomas Howell of Pauls Valley. John’s grandparents are Billy and June Russell of Bartlesville and he is the son of Bill and Janet Russell of Victoria. John is attending Baylor University as a University Scholar.



Lovelace serving his country

Pvt 1st Class Donovan Lovelace recently completed his JRTC (pre-deployment training) at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Donovan is a Combat Medic for the 10th Mountain 1st Brigade 1-87 Infantry Battalion at Fort Drum, New York.


While in training, he was recognized for his quick medical response in saving two fellow members and preventing them from heat stroke. He has been recommended for the Army Achievement Medal and/or the ARCOM medal.

The promotional waiver has also been submitted for the Specialist promotion. Donovan will be deploying to Baghdad, Iraq, in January and then Kuwait in August. Donovan’s military goal is to acquire a medical degree while serving his country.

May God be with him in all he does.

Donovan’s family are all so proud of him. He is the son of Tonya and Richard Hawkins of The Colony, Texas, and the grandson of Patricia Risner of Sapulpa, and Harold Risner of Durant.





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.
		8:30-4:00	1st & 3rd Tuesday
		8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Friday
		8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
		8:00-4:30	2nd & 4th Tuesday
		8:30-4:00	2nd Wednesday
		8:00-4:30	Daily
		8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.
		8:00-4:30	3rd, 4th Friday
		8:00-4:30	Monday and Friday
		8:00-4:30	1st & 2nd week - Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.
		8:00-4:30	3rd & 4th week - every day
		8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.
		8:30-4:00	2nd Thursday
		8:30-4:00	Every Thursday
		8:30-4:00	1st, 2nd & 3rd Thursday
		8:00-4:30	Every Tuesday
		8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Thursday

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Learning the Choctaw language in California

The Choctaw Language Class of San Francisco, California, meets every Saturday morning at the San Francisco Friendship House. In the picture are Ron Rowell, Senna Heyatawin, Dorothy Durant, John Lowman, Ida Wilson, Pebbles Robinson, Dee Wilson, Korin Atwood and Sean Noah. Not pictured is their instructor, Tamaka, who is taking the picture. Keep up the good work!

Happy 97th birthday!!

Happy birthday to Wynie Skelton Palmer who turned 97 on October 3. This picture was taken on her birthday as she was visited by family members. Wynie attended Wheelock Academy and is proud to be Choctaw. Her family, friends and loved ones wish her a very happy birthday!



Happy 90th birthday

Happy 90th birthday to Beatrice Clayton. She turned 90 on November 18 and lives in Apache Junction, Arizona. Also, wishing a happy birthday to Lurahee “Luree” Merriyman Beliveau of Sunnside, Washington, turned 81 on November 19. Sisters Beatrice and Lurahee are descendants of original enrollee Leo E. Merryman.



Happy first birthday

Happy first birthday on September 10 to Tey’ Anna Carter-Flournoy who celebrated her birthday at two different locations. First with her father’s family and then with her mother’s family. Tey’ Anna’s parents are Milton Flournoy and Crystal Carter. Tey’ Anna is a sweet and loving little girl. She has a personality like no other. She is walking all over the place and is speaking a few words. Dancing is one of the favorite things she loves to do and she will perform at any request. She loves to smile and sing. At her party she enjoyed opening gifts and eating ice cream and cake.



Happy third birthday!!

Happy third birthday to Haydn! You are growing up so fast and we are wondering where the time has gone. It is still hard to believe you are in school. Hope you have a great birthday and wonderful school year. Haydn is the son of Twaleena Watson and Daniel Weddle; grandparents, Danny Billy and Donna Watson, all of Vernon, Texas, and great-grandson of Margaret L. Billy of Sobol. Haydn would also like to wish his cousin, Audrey Cusher, a happy birthday.



Congratulations Officer Gorospe

Congratulations to Christopher Michael Gorospe of Los Angeles, California, who graduated from the Los Angeles Police Academy on October 9, 2009. Class 4-09 started with 72 recruits and after 920 hours of training over the course of 24 weeks 53 recruits successfully completed the Academy. Christopher received his shield and was sworn in as a Los Angeles Police Officer on September 11, a month before graduation. He has been assigned to the North Hollywood Division. His mom, Christina DeLisser; grandparents Ola and Marvin Gorospe; uncle Michael, cousin Dereck, girlfriend Cynthia Renteria and close friends were in attendance for his graduation. Our family and friends in Oklahoma would also like to extend their congratulations to Christopher on a job well done. They include Paul Elmore of Boswell, Jeanette (Crowder) and Billy Smith of Oklahoma City, Jack Hendrix of Kingston, and Jacob Jones of Boswell. We are all very proud of Christopher and wish him a successful and safe career with the LAPD.



Congratulations Danyelle

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Department of Higher Education would like to recognize and congratulate Danyelle Rena Anderson for graduating December of 2008. She graduated from East Central University with a Bachelor’s of Science with a major in Early Childhood Education.

Happy 14th birthday

Wyatt Lane Williams of Idabel celebrated his 14th birthday on September 9. His parents are Barry and Linda Williams of Idabel. His grandparents are the late Arvel Williams and the late Pauline Williams of Summerfield, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Scott of Idabel.



Billy named MVP

Matt Billy earned the most valuable defensive player award in the Native American All-Star game this summer in Spokane, Washington, making him the first Sequoyah graduate to receive this honor. Billy is a graduate of Sequoyah School, a Native American boarding school, in Tahlequah. Billy is also Sequoyah’s first football All-State player to actually play in the All-State game. Billy, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation from McAlester, Oklahoma, will continue his football career at Haskell University this fall.



Brooks bags elk

At 6:55 a.m. on August 29, Daniel Brooks shot this 7x9 elk during a draw hunt at the wildlife refuge near Clayton, Oklahoma.



Brothers celebrate

Happy birthday to my three wonderful sons from their mother. Christian Lance Hampton turned 10 on August 26, Kevin Warner Hampton turned 3 on September 27, and Casey Lane Hampton turned 6 on October 16.



Five generation photo

Preston Alexander Watson is shown here, held by his mother, Kasey Watson, at the Christ United Methodist Church in Claremore. Seated next to her is Preston’s great-great-grandmother, Lucille Tims Coleman. Standing is grandmother Cindy Young and great-grandmother Genevieve White.



The photo was taken on Preston’s first trip to church where Preston and his father, Jon, were baptized on August 2.

Preston Alexander Watson was born on June 2, 2009, in Oklahoma City.

Happy 50th anniversary

Clovis and Janyce Harkins of Midwest City decided nothing was going to stop them from celebrating their Golden wedding anniversary, not even Janyce being hospitalized.

The couple married on May 27, 1959. They renewed their wedding vows in honor of their 50-year union on May 27, 2009, surrounded by family and friends in the ICU at the Midwest City Hospital. Their marriage of 50 years has been blessed by four daughters, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Dryka/Kuziel wed

Valerie Anne Dryka and Joseph William Kuziel were married October 4, 2009, at the Blockade Runner Beach Resort in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. A double-ring ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Samuel Murrell.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Dryka of Wye Mills, Maryland, and Mr. George Hoffmann and the late Mrs. Mary Hoffmann of Wilmington, North Carolina.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kuziel of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The newlyweds reside in Wilmington, North Carolina.



Gavin’s family celebrates

Gavin Hunter Baron celebrated his 10th birthday on May 4 at his mom’s house in Caney with his cousins, Jayden, Jaystin and several others. Gavin is the son of Annie Land and Joseph Barone. Gavin is also the big brother to new baby sister, Erica Ruth Lang-Seabourn. Happy birthday to the new big brother!!

Gavin Hunter Barone would like to announce the birth of his sister, Erica Ruth Lang-Seabourn. She was born August 14, 2009, weighing 7 pounds 15 ounces and 21 inches long. Proud parents are Amie Lang and Kenny Seabourn and grandparents are Shirley Fox, all of Caney, the late Ronald Fox, Charlie Seabourn and the late Ruth Lang and the late Floyd Eugene Lang Sr.



Happy birthday

Angela Kay Bedford’s family would like to wish her a happy birthday during October. We wish her the best of everything everyday not just on her birthday. Happy birthday from Raeburn, Michael, Anthony, Melinda, Braxton, Brian, Mirand, Elizabeth, Carmie and Robert.



Congratulation Sean!

Congratulations to Sean Hamilton. Sean is a 2009 graduate of Atascadero High School in Atascadero, California. He is working full-time at Kohl’s and is attending Cuesta College in Paso Robles, California. His family sends congratulations and are very proud of his accomplishments.



Reanna ‘cooking’ in cook-off

The family of Reanna Lynne Allen would like to say congratulations on winning the first place Speciality Junior Division Chili Cook-off and also the second place “Best of Show” Chili Cook-Off Junior Division at the 2009 Pittsburg Free Fair. She attends school at Tannehill Elementary where she is in the fifth grade and is in 4-H.

Reanna would also like to say happy birthday to her dad, Charles Allen, who celebrates 45 years on November 27, and her cousins, Lisa Frazier and Edward Daney, who have birthdays in November.



Polk places in Jingle Dance

Rayvan Polk won second place in the Junior Jingle Dance competition at the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival 2009.

Rayvan is the daughter of Marcus and Krissy Polk. Grandparents are Willard and Sharron Polk of Bennington, Ken and Kenya Inman of Durant, Larry Schmitz of Silo.

This was Rayvan’s second time to compete in the competition and her family is very proud of her.



Happy 12th birthday

Happy 12th birthday to “my little Thanksgiving baby,” Sam Jacob, on November 27. He will be celebrating his birthday with his family in Ingram, Texas, at his Grandpa Don’s house the day after Thanksgiving. Sam’s parents are Karen Jacob and the late Gabe Jacob. His grandparents are the late Daniel Jacob and the late Emmaline Jacob, both formerly of Tushka, and Don and Peggy Jackson of Ingram.

Sam would like to say a special “Hey” to his favorite aunts, De-lores Kay Jacob of Tushka and Susan Cockrill of Bells, Texas.



Minyard receives citation

Staff Sergeant Willie R. Minyard, a previous recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, was recently awarded the Army Achievement Medal for exceptional meritorious service while assigned as a Cavalry Instructor for Class 09-013 Iron Troop, First Battalion, 81st Armor Regiment.

According to the citation from the Secretary of the Army, Staff Sergeant Minyard’s exceptional tactical and technical skills were critical in the success of the troop’s mission. His actions reflect great credit upon him, The Red Lion Battalion and the United States Army.

Minyard is a native of Bennington and the great-great grandson of original enrollee Milton Walley. He is married to the former Keysha Hamby and they have two sons, Hunter and Rowdy. He is the son of Wayne Minyard and Diana Bundrand; brother, Angle Cross, and the grandson of Willie Walley and the late Ella Walley and Emma Minyard, all of Bennington.



Happy fourth birthday

Trinity Skye Thorne celebrated her fourth birthday on September 12 at home with family and friends. She is the granddaughter of Gene and Lahoma Murphy Crauthers of Oklahoma City. She is the great-granddaughter of the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



Celebrating 10 years

Wishing Gage a happy birthday July 29. He turned 10 years old. He is the son of Donnie and Gacque Knight of Shawnee. His grandparents are Lee and Linda Knight of Hugo and Ray and Pat Boozee of Shawnee.



Happy eighth birthday

Cody Cannady celebrated his eighth birthday on November 2.

Wishing my grandson a happy birthday from Grandma Louise Walker.



Happy ninth birthday

Happy ninth birthday to our “little princess,” Whitney Griffith. She is in third grade at Lukfata school. She enjoys playing basketball, softball and jumping on her trampoline. Whitney’s parents are Jimmy and Paula Griffith of Millerton. Her grandparents are the late Ned and Geraldine Griffith, the late Bernice Columbus Colbert and the late John Baker.



Birthday wishes

Happy birthday to Emily M. Smith on October 4 from Mom, Dad, Jordan and McMaw.



Choctaw Nation Outstanding Elders

Smallwood, Price chosen from Districts’ nominees

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma honored its 2009 Outstanding Elders and nominees at a banquet September 29 in Durant.

Chosen as Outstanding Male Elder is Leo Smallwood of District 7.

Mr. Smallwood was born July 22, 1917, in the community of Nelson in Choctaw County, the son of Billy and Lydia Smallwood. At the age of 4, Leo and his family moved by wagon to Cloudy Creek, about 10 miles north of Rattan. He started to school at West Cloudy where he attended through the eighth grade. In the fall of 1932, he started high school at Rattan. After graduation, he enrolled in summer school at Southeastern State College.

Through sweeping floors, washing dishes and milking a cow, Leo managed enough college hours to get a temporary teaching certificate.

In 1939, he started teaching at Frazier Valley, a sawmill community located five miles across the hills by pig and cow trails from his parents’ home.

His salary the first year he taught was \$65 a month. He received a raise for the 1941-42 school year, bringing home \$90 a month.

In 1942, Mr. Smallwood was

inducted into the U.S. Army and he served his country during World War II.

After the war, he returned to teaching at Rattan High School in 1945. The next year, coaching high school girls’ basketball and baseball was added to his duties. He served at Rattan for the next 20 years, with boys’ basketball added as well as several other teaching subjects.

The last 20 years of his teaching career were spent as high school principal, coach and teacher.

He was honored to be inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame in July.

Leo and his wife, Jane, retired at the end of the 1980 school year with 78 years served together in public education. They have lived in Rattan for 53 years and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary three years ago. Their six children are all teachers with their degree in education, as are their spouses.

The Smallwoods have 12 grandchildren and one great-grandson. They feel blessed and honored by their commitment to Oklahoma’s educational system. Although it was occasionally tough, Leo and Jane have enjoyed every minute of it.

This year’s Outstanding Fe-

male Elder is Norma Price of District 9.

Norma was born January 8, 1933, at Crystal in Atoka County. The daughter of Alonzo and Geneva Shoemake, she is the oldest of five siblings.

After attending Crystal Grade School, Norma attended Atoka High School and graduated as valedictorian in 1950. She received a scholarship to Southeastern and entered as a freshman that fall.

She and Paul Price were married in September 1951. They celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary this year.

After putting her college career on hold to have a family, Norma re-entered college in 1957 and graduated in the upper 15 percent of her class in 1959.

In the fall of 1959, Norma began teaching sixth grade in Blanco, New Mexico. She was also the PE teacher for the seventh and eighth grade girls. After two years, she and her family returned to Durant. In 1962, she began working as a caseworker for the Department of Human Services where she held various job positions through the years. She was promoted to supervisor in September 1973 and to county director in 1986 from which she retired 13 years later.

In October 1986, she was



selected as Boss of the Year by the Business and Professional Women’s Club. She was B&PW treasurer in 1989 and recording secretary in 1990-91.

Norma and Paul were blessed with four children, all of whom graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, some going on to receive degrees at the University of Oklahoma.

Norma served as vice president of the Durant Chapter of Salvation Army from 1980 until 2007.

During her employment with the state, she was a member of various organizations. In 1990

she was awarded as an Outstanding Community Service Volunteer for the Bryan County Elder Care Program.

She was also a founding board member of the Crisis Control Center, a service for domestic abuse victims began in 1987 in Durant.

In 1986, Norma was instrumental in the organization of the Bryan County Community Services Program to help educate all community organizations of the resources available to serve needy families. She served as the first president.

Norma will claim as her

proudest achievement the many years she has served as a Sunday School teacher, from small children to teen, young adults, and now as adult teacher. She also assists in women’s ministries by visiting hospital patients.

She enjoys visits from her children and grandchildren, working in the yard and in her garden.

When she retired in September 1998 from the Department of Human Services, Norma began attending the Bryan County Choctaw Senior Citizen meetings. She enjoys the fellowship, the trips and the food.

Outstanding Elder Nominees



Councilman Hap Ward, Shirley Lambert, Jimmie D. Paxton and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

District 1 – Idabel

Shirley Lambert raised eight children and is now enjoying grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She attended college at the age of 37, receiving a BS degree from Oklahoma City University. Shirley taught high school English for 12 years at the Broken Bow Public School. She loves sharing vegetables from her garden and homemade jellies with the members of her Choctaw Senior Wellness and Fitness group.

Jimmie D. Paxton has raised five sons and two daughters, one of whom he adopted at 2 months old. He is a veteran who served in the U.S. Navy and later was employed for 35 years at the McAlester Army Base Communication Plant. He was also employed as a team truck driver for 10 years, driving from coast to coast. He is involved in his community, donating food, preparing meals for churches, funerals and events and he volunteers at the Idabel Senior Center as a shuttle bus driver for transporting elders. He enjoys music and reading Native American history.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Barbara Battiest, Edgel Samuel and Councilman Mike Amos.

District 2 – Broken Bow

Barbara K. Battiest earned a Bachelor of Science and Master’s degrees in Education from Southeastern. She retired from teaching in May 2008 after 37 years with Lukfata School. She began her second career as a family support worker, assisting young families of all ethnic backgrounds, informing and helping them with available resources. She is a fluent Choctaw speaker and has taught Choctaw Language Classes for 10 years in Broken Bow through the Choctaw Nation Language Department. Her membership lies with Tohwali United Methodist Church and has traveled many states on various mission trips. She enjoys singing gospel songs with Master’s Gospel Singers, reading, and teaching and playing piano. Barbara and husband Austin have one son and one granddaughter.

Edgel Samuel was employed with Weyerhaeuser for a number years at the Wright City plant, transferring to the Craig plant. After Craig’s closure, he worked with Tyson until retirement. He began devoting his time to his ministry, becoming a lay minister and now serving as a pastor to several United Methodist Indian Churches. He is committed to getting more men involved in local churches and youth ministry because he believes “without the children there is no future.” Edgel and wife Jane have raised five children and are now blessed with grand- and great-grandchildren.

District 2 – Bethel

Susie Noah faithfully attends the Battiest Baptist Church and is referred to as Ms. Susie by many of her friends because of her personality and the warm welcome she bestows on her neighbors. She attended Battiest School and currently enjoys attending tribal functions and senior citizen activities. She has one son and grandchildren.

Emerson G. Wilson Jr. worked with a construction company that had him assisting with the construction of dams and powerhouses from Pine Creek, Oklahoma, to Arkansas, Ohio, Georgia, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, to name a few. His life was committed to supporting his family and upon retirement he returned home to Southeast Oklahoma. He attends the Kulli Chito Church where he teaches Sunday School. He and his wife have two sons.



Councilman Kenny Bryant, Anna Carlile and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

District 3 – Talihina

Ann Carlile and husband Mack reside in Talihina. A graduate of Southeastern, she has worked with Talihina’s JOM program and as the facilitator for the Choctaw Language Program. Anna engages students in Choctaw culture by preparing them to compete in artistic drawing, Choctaw singing and storytelling at the Native American Language Fair in Norman. She currently teaches Choctaw Language at the Talihina Community Center and serves as song leader for the Talihina Choctaw Singers. She was recently honored for community involvement at the annual Talihina Indian Festival Pow Wow for her commitment to teaching Choctaw Language and traditions.

Jimmy Miller and his wife have one son. He has lived most of his life in the Talihina area. He is a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army stateside and in Vietnam. On his return, Jimmy was employed with Tinker Air Force Base. He joined Green Hill Baptist Church where he teaches Sunday School classes and also drives the Church bus. He volunteers at the Talihina Senior Center with serving of meals and mowing the lawn.



Councilman Kenny Bryant, Kenneth H. Smith, Christine Ludlow, and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

District 3 – Smithville

Christine Thomas Ludlow has eight children with numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She attended public school and boarding schools including Chilocco Boarding School, Nanih Chito and Wheelock Academy. Christine received her Bachelor

of Science in Education from Southeastern State Teachers College with a minor in music. She began her teaching career at the Goodland Orphanage, working with Smithville, Watson and Idabel school systems. After retirement she was a tutorial aide with the Johnson-O’Malley program at Watson School. She taught Choctaw Language classes through the Choctaw Nation Language Program for seven years and served on the Dictionary Committee. Christine is a member of the Presbyterian Church where she is an Elder and has served as Sunday School teacher and been involved with Vacation Bible School. She is very active and has been selected to serve on committees with Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery and Choctaw Agency. Christine participates in the Wellness and Fitness Program and was recently recognized for earning most points at the Smithville Senior Center.

Kenneth H. Smith resides in Octavia, Oklahoma, and has been semi-retired since 1990. He is a veteran serving two years of active duty with the U.S. Army. He attended college, receiving his degree and was employed as an elementary teacher and principal for 25 years with 20 of those years in the Smithville School system.



Councilman Delton Cox, Coleman Billy, Rotha Adams and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

District 4 – Poteau

Rotha Adams and her husband of 49 years, Daniel, have seven children, grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She is an active member of Thessalonian Baptist Church where she has served as Sunday School secretary for 20 years. Since 1999, she has sung with Native Praise Women’s Choir which consists of approximately 120 Oklahoma and affiliated tribal ladies from 17 tribal cultures. As a member of Native Praise, she has traveled to many states singing the songs of our cultures. She and Daniel attend Poteau Senior Center and she shares her gift of singing at funerals.

Coleman LeRoy Billy and wife Edna have four children, grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He is a direct descendent of Choctaw Code Talker Albert Billy. Coleman is a Baptist minister serving in the Heavener and Poteau areas for the past 54 years. He has been active in many aspects of broadcasting on Channel 5 TV, Fort Smith, as a newscaster, in commercial production, and as co-host. He is now involved with a Poteau radio station. Prior to his pastorate service, he sang bass in concerts with the Cooley Brothers Quartet and the Travelers Quartet.



Councilpersons Charlotte Jackson and Delton Cox, Verna Lois Arterburn and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

District 4.5 – Spiro

Verna Lois Arterburn of Keota graduated from Ada High School, attended East Central University, Ada, and Cook Christian Training

Continued on Page 7

Outstanding Elder Nominees

District 4.5 – Spiro continued

School, Tempe, Arizona, the University of Arizona in Tuscon where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and her master’s degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Her teaching experience includes reservation and off-reservation employment from Pima Reservation in Arizona to Haileyville, Oklahoma. Verna has worked as Summer Youth Coordinator for Choctaw Nation for the past 28 years.

Billy “Bill” Coleman and wife Ruth enjoy an active retirement near Spiro. He entered the U.S. Navy in 1943, prior to graduation, and served in Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. He later served in Army Reserves and was called to active duty, returning for the Korean War. After his military career, Bill returned to college and received his degree in education. He taught school in Pocola and in the Catholic School System in Arkansas until his second retirement in 1986. He then began writing historical articles for local newspapers and maintained the grounds at the Choctaw Nation Cemetery in Skullyville. He was instrumental in organizing the first Choctaw Language Class in Poteau, still studies the Choctaw language and with his assistant teaches Choctaw every Tuesday evening. He attends the Spiro Senior Center, serving as president.

District 5 – Stigler

Lucille Timmons and her husband of 30 years, Willard Timmons Jr., reside in Latimer County. She attended Keota Public School and graduated high school in Oklahoma City. Lucille attends the Stigler Senior Center, enjoying the fellowship of those in attendance. She is very proud of the great people working at the site. She is also very proud to be a member of the Choctaw tribe.

Thomas Cooper and Wanda, his wife of 41 years, have four children with grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He retired from the Allen Canning Company in 2004. Thomas is currently a part-time employee of Choctaw Nation Aging Services at the local senior nutrition center. His hobbies include hunting, fishing and going to auctions, yard sales, watching TV and napping.



Councilman Joe Coley, Cornelius and Norma Sam, and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

District 6 – Wilburton

Cornelius and Norma Sam have been married for 55 years. They have 10 children, 23 grandchildren and soon-to-be seventh great-grandchild. Norma has always had an interest in the health field and attended classes to become a nurse aide. She is a member of the Cedar Baptist Church where she teaches Sunday School and plays the paino. She is a member of the Native Praise Choir and has traveled to Europe to sing at the Baptist Women’s World Alliance meeting. Her most memorable trip was singing at the Philharmonic Auditorium. She remains involved in her community by volunteering as a foster grandparent at Jones Academy and enjoys singing at different churches. At 60, Norma received her GED, learned to drive and got her license.

Cornelius attended LeFlore Public School. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps and was active during World War II and the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1956. Cornelius was ordained as a deacon while residing in California and upon returning home is now a deacon at the Rockcreek Baptist Church in Red Oak.

District 7 – Antlers

Jeffie Marie Gibson raised eight children near the Goodwater Community in Sobol. For 24 years, she worked as a nurse aide at the Antlers Nursing Home and also at the Choctaw Nursing Home. Jeffie was also employed at the Holly Creek Fryers processing plant until she needed to be the caregiver for her aging mother and her two sons. She is dedicated and active in her church. She also grows a garden each year and digs for medicinal roots for personal use. She enjoys taking care of her grandchildren so that her children can make a living for their family.



Councilman Jack Austin, Rena Mae Noah and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

District 7 – Wright City

Rena Mae Thomas Noah, 91, of Wright City has raised nine children and is blessed with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Focusing on the past, she recalls attending orphanage school, the depression years and the war years. She has always been active in church by teaching Sunday School and reading her Choctaw Bible.

As a child, Joe Wesley attended St. Agnes Catholic School in Antlers. He is a humble man who lives a quiet life but is recognizable by his Stetson hat, cowboy boots and western belt just as most men of Southeastern Oklahoma. But Joe is truly a cowboy even if he is Indian. He lived his dream of being a bareback and bull rider, qualifying for the Rodeo Cowboys Association Finals 1946 and retiring in 1947. For 12 years after his retirement he made his living shoeing horses. Joe was recently honored in Wright City at the Fourth of July Rodeo sponsored by American Legion. Joe married Delie Wilson, but never had any children.

District 8 – Hugo

Evilen James of Hugo enjoys Choctaw hymns and going to singings with a carload of elders from the Hugo Senior Center. She also enjoys fishing and cooking her catch over an open flame.

John Harlin retired from his trade of being an auto body shop employee and now finds time to enjoys his hobbies of fishing and working in his garden. Above all, he enjoys listening to elders as they talk about the Depression and World War II, believing that a lot can be learned from these two incidents.



Councilman Ted Dosh, Terry Cole and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

District 9 – Durant

Terry Cole attended Bennington Public School, Durant High School and Southeastern Oklahoma State University for general education. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1970 and was honorably discharged. Terry was employed with the Hugo Housing Authority then transferred to the Choctaw Preservation Program where he is director. He is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation Color Guard. As a tribal employee, he has been honored for his accomplishments and he represents the Choctaw Nation on numerous state and national boards. He has three children and is the proud grandfather of five boys and five girls.



Councilman Anthony Dillard, Betty Works and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

District 10 – Atoka

Betty Works, a resident of Farris, has one daughter and two grandchildren. She has earned her Bachelor of Science in Education and Master’s Degree in Behavioral Studies from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She did her doctoral work in psychopathology and multi-culture studies at the University of Oklahoma. Betty has taught at SOSU, Oklahoma City University and at Rattan Public School for 30 years. She has done research and written proposals, worked as a consultant with the Choctaw-English curriculum and other curriculums for the state and local schools. She has been honored for her contribution to education by numerous state and national organizations. She has also served on numerous educational/teacher associations.



Councilman Anthony Dillard, Faye Brown, widow of the late Willard Olsen, and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

The late Willard Olsen was raised in Atoka County and was married to Faye Brown for 61 years with whom he shared four daughters, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He attended Black Jack Baptist Church and was employed as a bus driver for the Harmony School. He was a veteran during 1943-46 and was employed with the Choctaw Nation during three administrations beginning with Chief Belvin. He enjoyed attending the Atoka Senior Center.



Jones Academy first nine weeks Super Students

Selected by their teachers for being well-rounded enthusiastic learners are Jones Academy students, front row, Mariella Chatkehoodle, fifth grade; Patricia Chalepah, sixth grade; Christopher Lopez, second grade; Gabriela Bernal and Shelby Tushka, fourth grade; and Brittney Harjo, second grade; in back are Rachel Chalepah, a senior in the Alternative School, Jeffrey Yeager, sixth grade, Amelia Osife, ninth grade Alternative; and Bryan Hawkins, fifth grade.



Councilman Bob Pate, Thomas Leflore, Maudie Ann Stubblefield, and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

District 11 – McAlester

Maudie Ann Stubblefield, 78, enjoys spending time with her children and adores her grandchildren. She is a faithful member of the First Indian Baptist Church of McAlester. Maudie is an excellent cook but is known for her Choctaw food and of sharing her culture with members of the community and other tribal affiliations. She volunteers at church conventions and events and also assists families in need. In the past years she retired from volunteering at the Choctaw Nation Head Start Center.

Thomas Leflore and his wife, Kathy, of 37 years live in McAlester. He has been employed with the Choctaw Nation for nine years. Thomas attends the Brushy Baptist Church and volunteers for community events, senior activities and youth activities. He is “Santa Claus” for the Indian children of Pittsburg County and assists with parades and floats. He is known for his fry bread and Indian tacos.



Councilman James Frazier, Martin Killingsworth, Crowder, Paula Carney, Coalgate, and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

District 12 – Coalgate

Paula Carney and her late husband served as missionaries to the Seminole Indians of Florida and now she resides in Coalgate. Paula has opened her home to foster care for several children through the years and recently has adopted three children. She was instrumental in building Grace Christian Fellowship Church in Phillips, Oklahoma. She also serves as a language teacher through the Choctaw Language Department, teaching youth the traditions and culture within this generation. Paula is fluent in Choctaw and sings from the Choctaw hymn book. When asked for funeral assistance, she is available to help the families by singing favorite Choctaw hymns.

District 12 – Crowder

Joyce Wilcox married Russell Wilcox 58 years ago and they have enjoyed six children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Joyce attended beauty college and has operated a shop for over 30 years. She and Russell have been foster parents, providing a temporary loving home to 65 children through the years. She is active at the Crowder First Baptist Church where she has taught Sunday School, Bible School and GAs. She has served as Sunday School secretary and Meals on Wheels coordinator. She is an active member of Crowder Senior Center, Sopokni Club, Red Hat Society and various fundraisers and group activities. She has been known to write poems in honor of tribal officials.

Martin L. Killingsworth is the father of one daughter and grandfather to three grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. He served in the U.S. Army two terms and was honorably discharged as Corporal E4. During World War II he was in France and Germany and upon his return was employed at the Talihina Indian Hospital in the kitchen, retiring after 30 years of service as a Grade 8 cook. He is a talented guitar player and singer since the age of 7. Martin and wife Francis attend First Assembly of God Church. He loves fishing and is an avid deer hunting enthusiast, earning Oklahoma’s Wild Life Cy Curtis Award for his exceptional deer. He praises God for his faith, his family, his life, his tribe, all his friends at church and at the Crowder Senior Center.

Choctaw Word Find

m i k o m o h v a k t g
h f e t h k m l s l i v
u m a o b a u l e h k n
o p y f f h s q e a c w
o o k o p i h s m q h d
c h a h t a x i l j i k
o y i k i t i g z d i a
i i j a i n k o p h t t
n f k t p s s t s z c t
t k o t i m a u z a n a
e a t a i k h s i i l h
k n y h m s a n o a j i

Find the Choctaw words and learn the pronunciation and meaning at the same time.

vllqsi - al.lo*si - Baby	in tek - i*.ti:k - sister
chahta - chah.ta - Choctaw	ohoyo - o.ho.yo - woman
ishki - ish.ki - mother	hattak - hat.tak - man
iki - i*.ki - father	miko - min.ko - Chief, king,
tekchi - tik.chi - wife	president or governor
i hattak - i*hat.tak - husband	ushi - o.shi - child
pokni - pok.ni - grandmother	iksa - ik..sa - clan, denomina-
mafo - ma:fo - grandfather	tion, a Christian
nakfi - nak.fi - brother	ipok - i..pok - daughter-in-law

CHOCTAW GATHERINGS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Denver



Dakota, Tari, Christopher and Zach Humphrey got their programs autographed by Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton at the Denver, Colorado, meeting.



Nine-year-old Makayla Shanks and seven-week-old Silence Shanks are cousins. They are descendants of Chief Green McCurtain.



Outreach Services Director Randy Hammons accepted a \$500 donation from Bradly Corbin for the Youth Coat Drive the Outreach Services Program is sponsoring.



Chief and Assistant Chief presented Jimmy Flores a Choctaw football for helping draw tickets for door prizes.



Jamaica Honore, 7, and his mom, Amanda Lopez, brought a history book to be signed by Chief.



Assistant Chief Batton with Lucinda Conger and Dixie Fields.

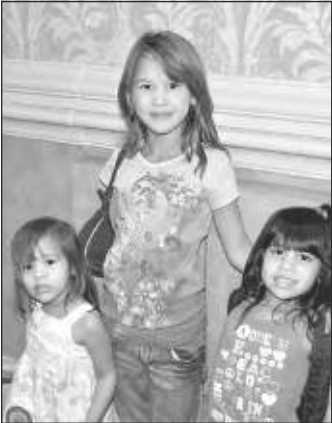


Meetings are a great place to make new friends. Doug McClure, originally from Atoka, and Rosco Marris, with roots at Ardmore, met in Denver and found they live fairly close to one another.



Craig Martinez of Denver told Chief Pyle that one of his relatives worked with the Chief's brother on the North Slope in Alaska.

Henderson



Kiomi, Raivette and Rita Tom smile for the camera at the community gathering in Henderson, Nevada.



Cindy Riska and Matthew Winegar are pictured with Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton.



Maile Suzanne O'Keefe helped Oneida Winship draw for door prizes at Henderson.



Choctaw Executive of Health Programs Mickey Peercy speaks with Barbara and Dawna Byrd.



The Chief and Assistant Chief posed with Michelle and Rid Craig Richardson and their 14-month-old son, Dylan.



Delbert Lewallen and Chief are pictured in Henderson. Delbert said he comes to the Bakersfield and Phoenix meetings whenever possible.



Chief Pyle and Mark Winship.



Kathy MacDowell and Allison Fischer at the Higher Education booth with Director Larry Wade.

Lubbock



Brothers Glen and Mark Maxey visit with Chef Pyle at the Lubbock, Texas, meeting October 6.



Ezra Gill was presented a football and Census t-shirt for helping with the door prize drawings.



Helen Thomas Lipham, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Willie Mae Thomas, Jodie Thomas, Susan Thomas and Vernon Thomas.



Keynan, Kenzie, Kelsey and Kasen Long pose with Chief Pyle at Lubbock.



Career Development Director Ken English and one of the students from the program, Lucy Watson. Lucy is a second-year law student at Texas Tech.



Carma Davis helps her mother, Margie Harris as they wait in line to get a photograph with Chief Pyle. Margie's dad was from Boswell.



Kenneth and Sharon Flores with Chief Pyle prior to the Lubbock meeting.



Former students attend Male Jones Academy Reunion

Gathered for a group shot at the annual Jones Academy Male Reunion on October 17 are, front row, Jones Academy Administrator Brad Spears, Laverne Jones, Tom Anderson, Ted LeFlore and Cleno Jefferson; middle row, Tully Choate, Osborne York, Jimmy Bruner and Victor “Buster” Jefferson; and top row, Howard Sumner, Olen Durant, Bertram Bobb, Howard “Scorchy” Bryant, Cassel Lawrence and Billy Hill. William Frye and Randy Jacob are not pictured.

Trail of Tears from Mississippi walked by our ancestors

◆ ◆ ◆ *Choctaw history ...*

By Len Greenwood
*Reprinted from
March 1995 Bishinik*

Part 4 of 4

If the 1832 removal had a white hero, it had to be Francis W. Armstrong, who was so hated by George Gaines, the chief removal agent, but was liked and trusted by Gibson. Armstrong, upon hearing of the cholera in Vicksburg, diverted the more than 1,000 Choctaws he had gathered marching them to Memphis instead of trying to take them to Vicksburg. At Memphis, however, there was very little steamboat transportation available, but Armstrong was determined to remove his contingent of Choctaws and keep them away from the cholera. He commandeered the snag boat, Archimedes. It was not equipped for passengers. But Armstrong had the dredges and snag removing equipment pulled off the Archimedes and ordered his more than 1,000 Choctaws aboard. The little steamer was so crowded that there was only room either

above or below decks for the Indians to sit. There was absolutely no way they could lie down or sleep. However, despite the crowding the Archimedes made it to Arkansas Post with a minimum amount of sickness and death. And wonder of wonders the wagons and supplies for the trip to Little Rock were waiting at Arkansas Post to take the 1,000 Choctaws on to Little Rock.

In the meantime, back in Vicksburg, Gaines and Gibson had gathered up enough steamboat crew members to man one of the two steamers. And since the Brandywine was the larger of the two, Gaines and Gibson crammed more than 2,000 Choctaws aboard and started for Arkansas Post. However, the rains started again, and by the time the Brandywine reached Arkansas Post, the lowlands around that post were so badly flooded that the steamboat could not unload its massed cargo of human flesh. After considerable bickering, it was decided that the Brandywine would proceed on up the White River, also in flood stage, and would unload

the Choctaws at Rock Row, a point of high ground some 70 miles east of Little Rock. At Rock Row, the Choctaws were unloaded. There were, of course, no wagons and no rations, save what were aboard the Brandywine, available in Rock Row. The Choctaws were told they would have to walk to Little Rock, getting by on what rations they could carry on their persons. Of the 70 miles between Rock Row and Little Rock, a bit more than 30 miles was covered with floodwaters, backwaters and swamps, forcing the Choctaws to wade almost half of the distance. At points the water was more than three feet deep, many of the Choctaws were still suffering and dying from the cholera and, on top of that, another outbreak of dysentery had struck. As in the march to Vicksburg, no records were kept of the Choctaws who died along the route, but four days after wading away from Rock Row, the remainder of the 2,000 Choctaws struggled into Little Rock where they were fed and given medicine and fresh clothing. At Little Rock, those who had survived “the long wade” joined the 1,000 who had been brought from Memphis by Francis W. Armstrong.

Despite his meritorious action, George Gaines still despised Francis W. Armstrong, and took this chance to “get rid” of him by persuading Secretary of War Cass to appoint Armstrong as the first United States Agent to the Choctaws. At Little Rock, the Choctaws divided,

with about 2,000 choosing to travel by the Military Trace to Fort Towson, and the remaining 1,000 or so deciding to travel to Skullyville by way of Fort Smith. At least one Phase of Gaines’ plan worked. Rations had been cached along the two roads, so that the Choctaws had ample rations to sustain them on the final leg of the 1832 journey. Before Dec. 30, 1832, all of the Choctaws still living at the end of the trail had reached their new Choctaw Nation in the West, and their new agent and friend, Francis W. Armstrong, had set up his headquarters in Skullyville.

The last federally supervised removal of the Choctaws from Mississippi came in the fall of 1833, and again George Gaines chose to follow the plan he had set up for the 1832 removal. The Choctaws were gathered at Vicksburg, transported by steamboat from there to Arkansas Post, by wagon from there to Little Rock and then on to the Choctaw Nation in the manner of the previous year. Only about 1,000 Choctaws showed up for removal. No outstanding misfortunes occurred, other than that one of the steamboats split a boiler and another experienced a broken shaft. However, there were other boats available and no floods, so the 1833 migration went more smoothly than its two predecessors.

In his final report on the removal, George Gaines wrote Lewis Cass, “in the three years of removal, we have transported more than 6,000 Choctaws from Mississippi to the new Choctaw Nation in the West.” Actually, the figure was from 1500 to 2000 more than Gaines had estimated in his report to Cass. By Jan. 1, 1834, there were from 7,500 to 8,000 Choctaws residing in the new western lands.

The new Okla Hannali was bounded on the east by the Kiamichi River, on the west by a line north from Island Bayou to the Canadian River, on the south by Red River and on the north by a line extending due west from the Okla Falaya northern border. Okla Hannali district Chief was Nitikechi, an nephew of Pushmataha.

The Ahi Apet Okla, which sometimes was called Okla Tannip, was bordered on the south by Okla Falaya and Okla Hannali, on the north by the Canadian River, on the East by Arkansas and on the west by the line extending northward from the source of Island Bayou. The last of the “great three” district chiefs, Moshulatubbee, was again the district’s leader.

The “trail of tears” had ended.

Iti Fabussa

Question: What Choctaw traditional artform has been developed and perfected by the hands of more than 200 generations of Choctaw people, has been recognized for centuries as one of the finest artistic achievements of Indigenous America, was nearly lost over the last century due to outside attempts to assimilate and destroy Choctaw culture, and is today being actively revitalized around Choctaw country?

Answer: Traditional Choctaw Pottery.

When visiting the Southwestern United States, people are often struck by the visibility of the Native communities in the area. Few items are more emblematic of these Peoples than their exquisite traditional pottery. Ceramics made by potters from Zuni, Hopi, and many of the Pueblos, fill art galleries, museums, and tourist spots, and are featured on logos and billboards. At shows, they sell for hundreds or thousands of dollars each, and at home they are used in traditional ceremonies and social gatherings.

The scene is drastically different here in Southeastern Oklahoma, where it is actually more common to see one of these vessels from the Southwest than it is to see a traditional clay pot made by a Choctaw potter living right here. Today’s near-invisibility of Choctaw pottery could easily lead one to believe that pottery is not something that Choctaw people have traditionally made, or that Choctaw potters are somehow inferior to our relatives living in the west. In reality, both of these are far from the truth.

The development of pottery dates back over 5,000 years in the Southeastern United States. Through the millennia, the Indigenous people in this area, including the ancestors of today’s Choctaw people created a plethora of ceramic shapes, techniques, and designs. As time passed, pottery became more numerous and important. Even today, pieces of broken ceramics still quite literally litter the ground at ancestral 1000-year-old Choctaw village sites in Mississippi and Alabama. The artistry of the ceramic vessels produced by ancestral Choctaw potters living at Moundville (visit www.moundville.ua.edu), and other sites, is regularly recognized as among the best ever made by Indigenous communities in the United States.

To our Choctaw ancestors 500 years ago, clay pots weren’t just something to cook in and to eat out of. They were also used for storage, making glue, preparing medicines, processing fibers for cloth textiles, creating dyes, as items of gift and trade, offerings to Hvshltali, as protective coverings, incense-holders, musical instruments, and even to transport the fire to light flaming arrows to burn enemy villages. Our ancestors laughed over pottery, cried over pottery, and tripped over pottery nearly every day of their lives.

Rather than abandoning our pottery as soon as Europeans arrived with mass-produced goods, many Choctaw communities held tenaciously to the traditional art; it was in many ways better than the foreign goods. Into the 1800s in Natchitoches, Louisiana, Choctaw potters sold their wares to their less fortunate Anglo-American neighbors. Choctaw potters quite literally carried their art over the Trail of Tears (see the eating bowl featured above) and continued to produce it in Oklahoma. Using the same forms and designs that they had developed in the Homeland, Oklahoma potters clearly used pottery as a symbol of their unique and enduring Choctaw identity.

So, what happened to Choctaw pottery? Through the 1800s and early 1900s pottery’s significance in Choctaw communities greatly diminished, as a direct result of outside attempts to assimilate and destroy Choctaw identity and culture. However, it has never been entirely lost, with a few dedicated Choctaw individuals maintaining a knowledge of it up through today, and new research bringing old knowledge to light.



Cooking **tanchi labbona** and **banaha** on a wood fire in Choctaw traditional clay pots.

Possible benefits include:

- Strengthening our Indigenous connection with the land and ancestors,
- Restoring an important part of our traditional lifeway,
- Providing a creative outlet for youth,
- Supporting physical health, dexterity, and self-confidence,
- Providing an economic opportunity for Tribal artists, and
- Resisting assimilation

Choctaw Traditional Pottery Class

DURANT:

- Date: Nov. 15th, Nov. 29, Dec. 13
- Time: 5:30-9:30 PM
- Location: Bryan County Free Fair, 1901 S. 9th St., Durant, OK

POTEAU:

- Nov. 2nd, Nov. 16, Nov. 30, Dec. 14
- Time: 5:00-9:30 PM
- Location: Poteau Field Office, 208 B Street

IDABEL:

- Nov. 3rd, Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 15
- Time: 12:30-4:30 PM
- Location: Idabel Field Office, 2408 Lincoln Rd.

ATOKA:

- Location: Atoka Field Office, 1410 S. Gin Rd.
- Every Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m., beginning first week of Nov.

These classes are intended to be long-term, and will be offered on a regular basis for up to a year at the locations above. Additional classes may be offered at other localities. Please call (580) 775-0914 for information.

Help Us Find Old Pots!

Do you own or know about the location of an old piece of Choctaw pottery? Please contact us at 580-775-0914. To help in the revitalization of traditional Choctaw pottery, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Historic Preservation Office is currently trying to locate and document every piece of old Choctaw pottery still in existence. So far, we are aware of about 15 Choctaw vessels in Southeastern Oklahoma, and many older pieces from the Homeland. Photographs and measurements of these are being put into a database so that Choctaw people will have a record of our ancestral pottery to help us hold onto this artform indefinitely into the future.

Please mail your questions to Iti Fabussa c/o BISHINIK, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702, or e-mail to bishinik@choctaw-nation.com with “Iti Fabussa” in the subject line.

Editor’s Note: Due to the volume of the response to this column our writers will prioritize the questions according to topics and space availability. We will publish as many as possible in future issues of the newspaper.



CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Old Fashioned Christmas

is the theme of this year’s Choctaw Nation 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 1 and will be open all week from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Hot chocolate will be served Friday-Saturday.

OBITUARIES

Virginia Ruth Carnes Billey

Virginia Ruth Billey, 66, passed away on September 23, 2009, at her home in Atoka. She was born May 15, 1943, in Lane to Allen and Mary Jane Jones Carnes.

She attended school in Lane, Wheelock Academy and Okmulgee Tech. She married Chester Billey in 1961 and they were blessed with five children. She worked for the Choctaw Nation until her retirement and she enjoyed spending time with family and friends, having a good time, but her greatest joy was her grandchildren. Virginia will be greatly missed by all who knew and dearly loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; sons Billy Reed and Farrell Dean Billey; and a granddaughter, Stormy Dawn Billey.

She is survived by her children, Barbara Jo Billey, Shannon JoAnn Billey and Daniel Levi Billey; grandchildren, Johnny Reed Schramm, Destiny VirginiaAnn Morphew, Brandy Marie Billey, Mita Lee Cochanouer, Billy Gene Collins, Carmen Brooke Billey, Sierra Dawn Billey, Chastedy JoAnn Collins, Zachary Daniel Levi Billey and Daniel Dakota Levi Billey; six great-grandchildren; stepdaughter, Jackie Darlene Billey; and other relatives and a host of dearly loved friends.



Doris Jean Hampton Ring

Doris Jean Hampton Ring, 77, passed away October 3, 2009, at Texoma Medical Center from injuries she received after being involved in an automobile accident. Jean was born on September 10, 1932, in Bennington to Mitchell and Virgie Davis Hampton.

Jean was married to the Rev. Darold Ring for many years until he passed away in May 1984. As a pastor's wife, Jean was always active in church work, teaching Sunday School for many years and worshipping as a singer and musician. She loved the Lord and enjoyed studying her Bible. Her friends and family will remember her as a devoted homemaker who loved cooking and shopping. Jean was a longtime member of the Pathway Church of God.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband and her parents. She is survived by two sons, Eddie Ring and wife Linda of Sherman, and the Rev. Rick Ring and wife Darlene of Yarnaby; four grandchildren, Debra and Kim Ring of Sherman, Michael Ring of Yarnaby, and Stacie Wilson and her husband, Rickey Don of Bells, Texas; two great-grandchildren, Emily and Rylan Wilson of Bells, Texas; and numerous other family members.



Mike O'Van White

Mike O'Van White, 63, passed away at Neshoba General Hospital in Philadelphia, Mississippi. He lived in the Pearl River Community near Philadelphia.

Mike was the Veterans Affairs Officer for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and was a Vietnam veteran as a Marine, and an Army veteran as well. He had also been head of Choctaw Mortgage and Loan programs, as well as many other important positions for the Tribal government.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria White; his daughters, Michelle Graham and Sherrie Ferguson; and his granddaughter, Brittany Ferguson.

Patrick P. Coxsey Sr.

Patrick P. Coxsey Sr., formerly of Lompoc, California, passed away September 26, 2009, at the age of 86. Patrick was born December 5, 1922, to Arlis and Agnes Coxsey in Albany.

He worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps before entering the U.S. Army in 1941. He served during WWII with the 66th Division in France. After the war, he continued serving in the US Army as a career enlisted sergeant at numerous locations in Germany and the United States. He first came to Lompoc in 1947 and was stationed at Camp Cooke, now Vandenberg Air Force Base, and the United States Army Disciplinary Barracks, Lompoc. Following his retirement in 1961, he worked as a mechanic in civil service at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Patrick completed his education by earning an associates degree at Allan Hancock College. He was a member of the Lompoc Elks Lodge #2274. He loved politics and being involved in the community. He was instrumental in promoting and establishing the Lompoc Community Center on Seventh Avenue.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Stella M. Hall-Coxsey in 1994; and his brother, Ralph Coxsey.

He is survived by his wife, Frankie Walters Coxsey of Durant; his sons, Patrick Coxsey Jr. and wife Holly of Lompoc, James F. Coxsey of Lake Eufula, Thomas M. Coxsey and fiancé Virginia of Mesa, Arizona, and Paul A. Coxsey and wife Wendy of Lompoc; daughters, Cynthia Coxsey-Chambers and husband Felix A. Delgado Jr. of Moorpark, Mary Jane Sommerfield and husband Craig of Avondale, Arizona, Judith L. Coxsey-Hirsch and husband David of Arroyo Grande; 16 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren.



Frances M. Morgan Koontz

Frances M. Morgan Koontz, 77, of House Springs, Missouri, was born January 19, 1932, in McAlester, Oklahoma, to Charley and Lora Bullard Morgan, and entered into rest on October 14, 2009, at St. Anthony's Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

She married Claude M. Koontz Sr. on November 18, 1961, in St. Louis, Missouri.

She was preceded in death by her parents and three siblings, Bud Morgan, Gene Morgan and Mary Hazel Busby.

Survivors include her husband, three children, Lora (Andrew) Freimuth of High Ridge, Missouri, Debra (James Sr.) Lawson of High Ridge and Claude Koontz Jr. of St. Louis; seven grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Frances was a member of Eastern Star and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting, reading books and caring for children, especially babies. She is fondly remembered and will be dearly missed by all who knew her.



Vivian Kathleen Bearden Upcheshaw

Vivian Kathleen Bearden Upcheshaw passed away suddenly on August 23, 2009, in Navasota, Texas. Kathleen was born in Muskogee on April 22, 1920, to Oscar Bearden and Maude May Traylor Bearden.

She grew up in the Hugo and Sawyer area and later moved to Dallas with her mother and six half-brothers and sisters. She married Eli Harris in Dallas and had two sons, Eli Harris Jr. of Mesquite and Michael Harris of Navasota, Texas.

In 1959 Kathleen married Jancheri George Upcheshaw and they had one son, Everett Upcheshaw, who now resides in Navasota. In 1994, Kathleen and George retired and moved to Navasota, Texas.

She never lived in a house that she didn't wallpaper at least once. She loved pretty curtains and early American furniture. She always had a beautiful yard and insisted that it be mowed before company arrived. She was always there to listen and offer words of wisdom, sage advice and comfort to family and friends. She was a beautiful and loving person and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. We will cherish her memory for all time.

Kathleen was preceded in death by parents, husbands; and her brother, Everett Miller of Dallas.

She is survived by her sisters, Virginia McLeod of Forney, Texas, and Lucille Bryant of Rowlett, Texas; brothers, Willard Miller of Mesquite, Texas, Glenn Miller of Dallas, Texas, and Jack Miller of Mesquite, Texas; her three sons; 10 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.



T. J. Hunter

T.J. Hunter, 75, of Sasakwa passed away September 27, 2009, at home with his wife, Pamela Hurst Hunter, at his side, after a long battle with cancer. T.J. was born September 8, 1934, in Oklahoma City to Clayton Ward Hunter and Rachel Inez Horton Hunter, both who died when he was 4 years old. He was raised by his Aunt Pearl Jane Hunter at the Sasakwa farm.

T.J. attended Culley School and Sasakwa High School. He started working for Logan Drilling Co. at the age of 16 and worked for them two years. He served in the US Army during the Korean War in 1952 serving in the 598th Airborne Paratroopers. In 1955, T.J. returned to Sasakwa and attended college at East Central University in Ada, and also University of Oklahoma in Norman.

T.J. formed his first company, and owned several companies throughout his lifetime including Hunter Industrial Services, which was in operation at the time of his passing. One of T.J.'s hobbies was flying and caring for his own planes. His second love was working the farm where he retired in 2007. The farm that has been in his family since 1904.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an aunt. He is survived by his wife, Pamela Hurst Hunter of 23 years; sister, Hazel Stubbs of Broken Arrow; children, Cynthia Kiper and husband Kyle of New Richey, Florida, Allison "Jan" Drewery and husband Banks of Matthews, North Carolina, Jon Hunter and wife Paula of Pittsburg, Kansas, Kassidi Beatty and husband Robert II of Wichita, Kansas, and Krista Moix and husband Jason of Conway, Arkansas; grandchildren, Rachelle "Robbie" Sale and husband Eric, Crystal Clark and Clayton Clark, all of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Robert Beatty III "Bobby" and Andrew Beatty, both of Wichita, Jon Hunter II and Jakob Hunter both of Pittsburg; great-grandchildren, Amber Sale, Lindsey Sale, and Allie Sale, all of Fayetteville; father-in-law, Don Hurst of Shawnee; and mother-in-law, Delores Hurst of Dale, several cousins, nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.



Hunter Shane Allen

Hunter Shane Allen was born September 28, 2009, in Durant. He departed this life on October 12, 2009, at the age of 2 weeks.

Hunter was preceded in death by his grandfather, Brock Allen; great-grandparents, Albert William Beasley and Bertha Dunlap; and cousins, Danika Spalding and Kayla Beasley.

Survivors include his parents, Christopher and Jessica Dunlap Allen of Rattan; sister, Hayley Allen of the home; grandparents, Paula Allen of Hugo and Bobby Dunlap Jr. and Anna Dunlap of Cloudy; great-grandparents, Elsie and Dwight Allen of Haworth, and Bobby and Janice Dunlap of Cloudy; uncles and aunts, Albert and Rita Beasley of Oklahoma City, Jerry and Janice Allen of Indiana, Scotty and Trish Dunlap of Stringtown, Matthew Dunlap of Cloudy, Robert Dunlap of Cloudy, Dustin and Misty Spalding of Kent, Jay and Jessica Dorman of Durant, Ben and Shana Marley of Stringtown, and Shannon and Gina Dunlap of McAlester, along with many other relatives and friends.

William Wilson Stark Jr.

William "Bill" Wilson Stark Jr., 83, passed away June 14, 2009, at the VA hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. He was born March 2, 1926, in Ada, the son of William Wilson Stark and original enrollee Lyda Mae McClure Stark.

Mr. Stark was a U.S. Marine and a veteran of World War II. He was a member of the Dubuque Marine Corps League and active in the Dubuque Community Theatre. He was wounded during the war and while recuperating visited his mother, Lyda, and stepfather, Eddie LaPointe, in Washington, D.C. While there he met with Oklahoma State Senator Robert "Bob" Kerr and made a recommendation that all security in the Capitol be six-feet tall Native Americans who were Marines. The Senator said it would be taken under consideration. The proposal was regarded kindly but not introduced.

He returned to Iowa where he married his sweetheart and started a family.

Mr. Stark was very proud of his Choctaw heritage and his home state of Oklahoma. In 2008 he joined his sister, Mary Stark Turner, for her 75th birthday and many other members of his family at the Choctaw festival.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Penny; his parents; stepfather; sister, Lyda M. Stark Negahquet; and brothers, William Francis, John Thomas, James Craig and Walter Henry.

Survivors include his five children, Bill Stark and wife Jean, Linda Schwager, Beth Carroll and husband Larry, James Stark, and Sue Paisley and husband Jeff; 15 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; sister, Mary Marguerite Stark Turner, and adopted sister, Carolyn Louise LaPointe Schmidelkofer.



Carol Ann Hallcom Fortiere

Carol Ann Hallcom Fortiere of Grants Pass, Oregon, passed away on January 7, 2008. She was born in Pasadena, California, on August 19, 1944, to Ernest Andrew and Edith Ellen Hallcom.

Carol Ann graduated from Mark Kepple high school in Alhambra, California and attended East Los Angeles College before going to work for the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Carol loved the Pacific Northwest and eventually relocated to Oregon, where she remained for the duration of her adult years. She worked for Mt. Hood Recreation Department and was an avid snow skier for many years. She left the Mt. Hood region following the premature death of her husband, Lee, then proceeded to migrate to Grants Pass to be near her mother, Edith. Carol maintained a life-long admiration for horses and wildlife. She was always adopting and caring for stray cats and dogs and ensuring that none of the local creatures went hungry. She maintained a serene connection to the natural world and loved the scenic vistas of the Cascade and Siskiyou Mountain Ranges. She was where she wanted to be upon her passing. Additionally, Carol was a gifted and active writer, who enjoyed inscribing short stories as well as composing insightful poetry. Blessed with great musical attributes and artistic abilities, Carol sang in choirs and made use of her creative energies for positive endeavors. Our beloved sibling was a very kind soul, who demonstrated empathy for others, yet maintained a quality sense of humor throughout her life. Her upbeat and extroverted personality gave her the ability to generate friendships quickly. She was well-respected and adored by her friends and family alike. We all miss her very much.

She is survived by her 90-year-old mother, Edith Ellen; her two sisters, Norma Lee, and Shirley Jean; and her brother, Kenneth W. Hallcom.



Jack Nail

Jack Nail, 83, passed away on June 28, 2009. He was born in January 20, 1926, in Boswell to Charles C. and Lillian Nail and his grandparents were Joe and Paralee Mullins Nail.

Jack's wife was Ruth Nail of Oregon. Jack's siblings were Wanda Nail and Annetta Nail. Jack had Aunts and Uncles; they were Mary, Susan, Minnie, Dolly, Austin, Grace and Jenkins Nail. Charles' had two half-siblings; Riley Winship and Nettie Lorene Nail.

He was a member of Ironworkers Local 29. Jack is survived by his wife, Ruth; sons, Terry, Larry and Gary; and daughters, Donna and Dian.

Kayne C. Grubbs

Kayne C Grubbs, 66, passed away on September 27, 2009, in Savanna, Oklahoma. He lived most of his life in Phoenix, Arizona.

Kayne attended Carl Hayden High School. His occupation was a precision welder. He enjoyed sports, classic cars, and the outdoors.

Survivors include his wife, Anne Marie; three children, Christopher, Jennifer, and Anthony; seven grandchildren, Garrett, Kurtis, Desire'e, Angelica, Joshua, Lucky, and Aubrey Lynn; and a sister, Gwenda. He will be truly missed and will forever and always be in our hearts.

Paul Michael Eustis

Paul Michael Eustis, 65, of Melbourne, Florida, passed away September 23, 2009, at the family home after a long illness. He was born in Leflore on February 19, 1944.

He graduated from Parkview High School in Springfield, Missouri. After graduation, he worked as a master floral designer in Tulsa, Houston, Cocoa Beach, Florida, and Town and Country Florist in McAlester. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of McAlester and later attended First Baptist of Merritt Island, Florida.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, the Rev. Bill and Lorraine Eustis; grandparents, Esther and William H. Eustis, and Rhoda Ann and Squire O. Lowry; a sister, Esther Ann Eustis Hammett, and numerous aunts and uncles.

He is survived by Bill and Eugenie Eustis, Melbourne, Florida and David and Charlyene Eustis, Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Andrew Thomas Allen

Andrew Thomas Allen of Napa, California, passed away October 2, 2009. He was born November 20, 1912, in Lindsay, Oklahoma, to Andrew Jackson Allen and Katherine Wall Allen. Andrew was the sixth of their seven children.

His early years were spent at the family home in the country and later in their home in town. His father was a rancher. He obtained his primary and secondary education in Lindsay. Andrew went to Murray State College in Tishomingo. He took mathematics and general education classes for two years and participated in the sports program in polo and football. He continued his education and attended the Anadarko Business College for two years.

Andrew married Evelyn Hilburn in 1937. With the outbreak of World War II, Andrew joined the U.S. Coast Guard and served in Florida and Okinawa. After the war, he worked for the U.S. Post Office for one year. Then he purchased the local bus station in Anadarko and managed it for the following seven years. Andrew became a member of VFW, the Masons and Anadarko Country Club. He enjoyed golf.

In 1956, Andrew and his family moved to Amarillo, Texas. He worked as a civil service supervisor at Amarillo Air Force Base for 18 years and was transferred to Mather Air Force Base in Rancho Cordova, California, for the remainder of his career. He retired in 1975 and enjoyed traveling throughout the country with his wife in their RV.

Andrew and Evelyn moved back to Anadarko as their permanent home in 1977. They enjoyed family, friends, traveling, playing cards and fishing. Andrew was both a deacon and later an elder at the Anadarko Christian Church for many years.

Due to health problems, Andrew and Evelyn moved to Napa to be close to their daughter and grandchildren. They have lived in Napa for over four years.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 72 years; his daughter, Dr. Deborah Bommersbach and her husband, Leonard, and their five children, Trevor Bommersbach and wife MinMin, Krysta Bommersbach, Glenn Bommersbach, Kelsey Bommersbach and Robert Bommersbach; several nieces and nephews, Dr. Gene Brown and wife Grace, Janet K. Demos and husband Noel, Bert E. Temple and wife Barbara, Bob Allen and wife Norma, and Cathy Dutcher and husband Mike.