



Veterans
Day event is
November 11

The Choctaw Nation will honor its veterans with a ceremony on November 11 at Tushka Homma. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m., but staff will be on hand at 10 a.m. on the Capitol Grounds near the War Memorial. All Choctaw veterans will receive a token of gratitude. A free meal will follow the ceremony.

Tribal Council
elects officers

During its September regular session, the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council re-elected by proclamation Delton Cox as Speaker, Charlotte Jackson as Secretary and Joe Coley as Chaplain for the year 2009-10. As one of his first acts this term, Speaker Cox reappointed Patty Hawkins as Recording Secretary, Sylvester Moore as Sergeant-at-arms, and Bob Rabon as Parliamentarian. The same committees were also reappointed.



Council Speaker
Delton Cox



Council Secretary
Charlotte Jackson



Council Chaplain
Joe Coley

- In new business, Councilmembers approved:
- 14 budgets for the new fiscal year;
 - ammendments for NAHAS-DA's 2007 and 2008 budgets;
 - the Student/Parent and Employee handbooks for 2010 at Jones Academy;
 - application for the District Attorneys Council Justice Assistance Grant for local law enforcement;
 - a right-of-way in Pittsburg County in favor of XTO Energy;
 - a mineral permit in favor of Geokinetics USA Inc., also in Pittsburg County;
 - membership renewal to the National Congress of American Indians;
 - disposal of a 1985 semi truck;
 - unconditional guaranty related to equipment to be used by CMDC; and
 - disposition of the arts and crafts building at Tushka Homma.

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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.



A ribbon-cutting is held for the opening of the new cafeteria on the Capitol grounds.

State of the Choctaw Nation 2009

Chief Gregory E. Pyle delivered the 2009 State of the Choctaw Nation at the annual Labor Day Festival – speaking of the many things to be thankful for, the current initiatives of the tribe and the growth and progress the future holds.

“We have many things to be thankful for, including this gathering of family and friends. This wonderful occasion brings people from both coasts to our Choctaw Capitol. “Over the years, our people have traveled to Mississippi to join in their Fair activities. This year, the Mississippi Band sent two large buses to our festival. Almost 200 years after the Trail of Tears, the Oklahoma and Mississippi Choctaws are still a family, and we still enjoy gathering together to celebrate,” said Chief Pyle. More than 70 elders of the Mississippi tribe came and danced at the village on Saturday. The Chief took the opportunity to remind the Choctaws about the 2010 Census, which will be taken in March and April. “Every 10 years, a Census is taken and it is important that the Choctaw people are counted accurately. A lot of funding the tribe receives depends on the Census. It is important that we all write CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA. We have already been told the space to write this in is small, but it will be okay to write in the margins of the paper.

“History shows that tribal people took care of Mother Earth better than most others have. Our employees have asked that our sites ‘go green.’ We have begun to recycle, to sponsor highway cleanups and park beautifications,” said Chief Pyle. All year, tribal employees have been working to improve environmentally friendly habits – small steps, but continually improving ways of life to lead to a healthier future. Native Americans have long been the protector of the environment, and the Choctaw Nation wants to create a more environmentally friendly atmosphere in the work place, at home and in communities. During the State of the Nation, Chief Pyle spoke of the Calera City Park clean up and beautification that he attended with his shovels and gloves. “The District Councilman and I arrived expecting to see about 15 people helping and found over 40 people painting, planting trees and shrubs and cleaning up the park. The community joined with us and we worked as a team!” Chief Pyle also spoke of the growth that Choctaw Nation is experiencing. With the tribal vision in mind, “to achieve healthy, successful, productive, and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud nation of Choctaws,” the goal is to better serve the Choctaw people. Chief Pyle said he and the Council saw a great need in Atoka County for a clinic. “We allocated funds from our business revenues to build that

Labor Day
Photo
Gallery,
Pages 8-10



Chief Justice James Wolfe swears in Councilmembers James Frazier, Anthony Dillard, Delton Cox, Jack Austin, Ted Dosh and Joe Coley for their new four-year term.

clinic and also built a Community Center in Durant. We are constructing a Head Start and Child Development Center in Durant and a Wellness Center and Social Services building in Hugo. Wright City is also getting a new Community Center. We have just opened new casinos in Hugo, Stringtown and McAlester.” The largest casino is the one under construction in Durant that will open in February of 2010. Chief Pyle ended his speech with a wish for all tribal members and friends, “What I want for all of you is the same thing I want for my own grandchildren. I want all of you and your family to be healthy, successful, and self-sufficient.”



Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Chief Gregory E. Pyle are pictured with the Choctaw Nation's 2009-10 royalty – Little Miss Juanita Gonzales, Sr. Miss Ashton Rachele DiNardo, and Jr. Miss Stephanie Tehauno.



Choctaw Defense was one of four organizations chosen to be honored at the 2009 Oklahoma Conference on Manufacturing with the Governor's Manufacturing Leadership Award. The event was presented by the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance at Tulsa.

Choctaw Defense wins Governor's Manufacturing 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 engineering work performed by Choctaw Defense itself. Three versions of the trailers will be constructed in a new 80,000-sq.-ft. facility in McAlester. “Congratulations to CEO Steve Benefield and his staff for a job well done! This is an exceptional accomplishment and I am very proud that this award with Governor Henry's signature will be displayed in the Choctaw Nation manufacturing facility,” said Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “It is great that several of the staff of Choctaw Defense were able to join Steve on stage as he accepted this plaque and recognition from his peers.” Assistant Chief Gary Batton and McAlester area Tribal Councilman Bob Pate also joined the group as the award was presented by Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance President Roy Peters. “Our goal is to find the best companies we can and honor them,” said Peters. He said it was a

See Choctaw Defense on Page 11

Harvest season brings appreciation for blessings



From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

As the harvest season begins, and the days in Oklahoma start a little cooler and end a little earlier, I have a special appreciation for hearth and home. Traveling across the United States to meet tribal members and make sure the programs are brought closer to their homes gives me and the Assistant Chief an opportunity to get to know many new friends.

A lot of these Choctaws still feel a connection to the “home-land” of Oklahoma. Some were here as a young person and moved out of this state in order to support themselves and their families. Some Choctaws who never lived in Oklahoma still feel a link with this area simply because of their heritage. Whatever the reason for the bond, I am always thrilled to talk about the Choctaw Nation and the southeast corner of Oklahoma where our counties are.

I am always pleased to hear when a family has been able to visit our Council House Museum at Tushka Homma or the Tribal Administrative Complex in Durant. Both buildings are full of history, and visitors are welcome. Sharing the culture and heritage of our tribe through the art and exhibits at Tushka Homma and Durant are among the priorities of our tribe – sharing our pride in our history.

Listing priorities is a common tool for business and government leaders so that we can stay “on track” with our tasks. Priorities for

me must always begin with God and family – and the Choctaw people are part of my extended family. I am committed to a list of priority tasks that go along with the vision statement of the Choctaw Nation, “To achieve healthy, successful, productive, and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud nation of Choctaws.”

More accessible health care through additional clinics, more specialized care through increased funding to contract health, more educational opportunities through scholarships and partnerships with schools, colleges and universities, career training for more productive lifestyles . . . all of these and more are helping the Choctaw Nation tribal members travel the path to success and self-sufficiency.

I am looking forward to the holidays, to having meals with Senior Citizens across the Choctaw Nation, to spending time with my seven grandchildren and to seeing more visitors enjoy the beauty of our tribal history. Please keep in mind as you study the history of this tribe, our ancestors were accompanied by missionaries as they walked the Trail of Tears. Our ancestors’ first priority on entering this new homeland was to establish a church and a school. They knew that God was real, and they celebrated the Christmas holiday as the birthday of their Savior. I think our ancestors were very wise.

May you and your family be blessed this Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Sustaining our tribe and tribal people

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

One thing that you will hear Chief Pyle and myself mention a lot is “sustainability” of the Choctaw Nation. What do we mean by sustainability? First and foremost: to sustain our culture - a culture of God, family, and friends.

In sustaining our Tribal members it is important to give our Tribal members the tools they need to succeed in life. Tools such as the 5,000 scholarships that are awarded annually through our education program, the career development

program which allows our tribal members to get a skill at a trade school. I think of the baskets that are given out to our needy families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. I think of the 800 jobs that will be created at our new casino in Durant opening in February of 2010 and the 100+ jobs that will be created in the McAlester Choctaw Defense plant.

In sustaining our communities we have also given to local law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and numerous churches. We have been having food drives this year to replenish the food banks across

southeastern Oklahoma. Tribal staff started a program where people donate new shoes for needy students called Sole-mates and this same group is now working on a coat drive.

When I think about sustainability you cannot help but to reflect on the past. The tribe has been up and down through the years but we have always sustained. I think about the Council House at our Tribal Capitol. In 1884 Chief Jackson McCurtain announced the opening of the Council House and at the same time gave his farewell speech. That was 125 years ago. The Council

House was declared a museum in 1970. Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Council have invested many dollars into the restoration of our Capitol. It looks great!

The Council House is bright and beautiful and stronger than ever. That is how I think of the Tribe today. Bright and beautiful and stronger than ever. We will have our ups and downs but Chief Pyle and this Council know that they must invest in the people to sustain our Tribe. Chief Pyle wants not only to take care of people today but for it to remain strong for the next 100 years.



Are we really in a war?

Ahyathika itibi hosh illaya-sha ho? Did you ever wonder “Are we really in a war?”

We have been thrust into a world that is mad, mad against God and mad against each one of us. There is no time in the history of the world when we need to be equipped for the battle all around us.

We know that we wouldn’t go to war without some protection or without some means of fighting back. Yet with so many Christians it’s almost like that.

“Are we really in a war?” Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians these words in Ephesians 6:10-11:

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

“Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

We are in a hostile world and we are not prepared without armor, without “...the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17). Our testimony is unprotected and before long it is destroyed.

We know as we look around us the enemy is ever active sowing discord among the brethren causing great damage to the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May we learn and sense in a new way how wonderfully prepared we can be. “Put on the whole armor of God.”

People today, that is, there are many, who do not believe in the Devil. The Bible teaches there is a person called Satan. And he is actively destroying the work of Jesus Christ wherever he can. The Bible teaches that very clearly.

You know there are people who say they are a Christian but they don’t believe in the reality of Satan. If they are a Christian they must not read the Bible, because the Bible everywhere speaks of him.

The forces of evil in this world are led by Satan. And he has powers that we can know nothing of. It is clear in the Bible that he has under his command a great Army of fallen angels, demons.

We are told that this force of evil that is described in Ephesians is organized. There is an organized program on the part of Satan to do his work in this world.

In Ephesians 6:11 we are

Chaplain’s Corner



Rev. Bertram Bobb Tribal Chaplain

told we are in a battle against the “wiles” of the Devil. The word “wiles” means “organized conduct or plans of war.”

Satan is attacking anything that would defeat his plan. That is why all of us who are Christians feel so much of the effects of Satan’s presence. Satan is not after those who belong to him, he is after those who want to defeat him.

Satan hates the book of Revelation because it tells the final chapter of his life. Revelation prophecies his final doom and it also prophecies the success of the One of whom he is so jealous, the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we study about the plan of Satan, we need to understand as Paul wrote to the Christians that it is important that we be not ignorant of his devices. We need to know his weapons of his plan.

Christians today have two attitudes of the study of the things that have to do with Satan, or the Devil or evil in the world. Either they just don’t know or they don’t even care.

And Satan continues to do his work as we cooperate with him. Because we haven’t taken the time to equip ourselves.

In 1 Peter 5:8 we find the purpose of Satan. Satan goes about according to Peter “... as a roaring lion ... seeking whom he may devour ...”

Satan’s chief objective is to devour your testimony. He goes about as a roaring lion seeking what he can find in your life with the purpose of devouring your testimony and your influence for Jesus Christ.

And the Bible says, “We are

in a war!”

Notice in Ephesians 6:12 we “... wrestle ...” We wrestle not against flesh and blood, we wrestle with the enemy.

It pictures a man with a grip on another man, straining every muscle to pin him to the ground. He uses all his energy to keep from being pinned down.

For the Christian, it is the straining of every spiritual muscle.

We are not called as Christians to a time of relaxation, just taking it easy. We are called to struggle with unseen forces, and the fight is real.

Today, men think of the world, not as a battleground, but as a playground. We think we are not here to fight, we are here to have fun. We think we are not getting ready to live, we are already living. And the best we can do is to get rid of our frustrations and live this life in the world to the fullest. We have lost the sense that we are in a warfare. It is because of that we are so often defeated.

It is true that to many Christians, it is that we don’t want to win, they don’t even know that there is a war going on.

The Bible tells us that this warfare is one for which we may prepare. It is not a war that we have to go into unprotected. It can help us if we will listen carefully and apply the truth. It can help us to walk into a battle and to fight for God and not be defeated, for our Commander in Chief, the Lord Jesus Christ, has already won the war. And He wants us to get in on the victory which we can’t win unless we are well-armed. That’s why Paul said to the Ephesians “... take unto you the whole armor of God.”

The first piece of armor is the girdle of Truth. The girdle of Truth is the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

Realize who God is, realize what He has done. Jesus paid the penalty for SIN. Then realize who you are, a sinner, and trust Jesus as your personal Savior today, by faith. Will you do that?

Thanksgiving Dinners

Antlers	November 19	6 p.m.
Atoka	November 10	12 noon
Bethel	November 23	6 p.m.
Broken Bow	November 19	6 p.m.
Coalgate	November 4	12 noon
Coalgate Community	November 13	6 p.m.
Crowder	November 18	11:30 a.m.
Durant Community (in Community Center)	November 10	6 p.m.
Hugo	November 17	6 p.m.
Idabel	November 18	12 noon
McAlester	November 18	11:30 a.m.
McAlester Community	November 22	1 p.m.
Poteau	November 18	6 p.m.
Smithville	November 18	11:30 a.m.
Spiro	November 18	11:30 a.m.
Stigler	November 17	11:30 a.m.
Talihina	November 20	11:45 a.m.
Tuskahoma (& Outreach Fair)	November 13	6 p.m.
Wilburton	November 12	6 p.m.
Wright City	November 17	6 p.m.



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

NURSERY NEWS



Levi Myles Battiest

There’s a new OU fan in Alaska! Jason and Sara Battiest of Fairbanks, Alaska, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Levi Myles Battiest, born June 25, 2009, at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, weighing 6 pounds 10 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches. Welcoming him to the family are his proud grandparents, Isaac and Marie Battiest of Broken Bow and Bob and Timmy Ellsworth of Bethel, Alaska. Levi is the great-grandson of the late Rev. David Warren Impson and Lena Helen Impson of Wright City, Isaac and Helen Battiest of Broken Bow, Orville and Louise Jones of Mankato, Minnesota, and Robert and Geraldne Ellsworth of Fairbault, Minnesota. Welcome Levi! May God bless you always.

Vivian Tolli Battiest

Vivian Tolli Battiest is the name chosen by Walker and Jamie Battiest for their third daughter, born at 1:17 a.m. on September 6, 2009. She weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. She joins sister Kathleen Elizabeth, 6; brother Carson, 5; and sister Madeline “Maddie” Kay, 3. Grandparents are Debbie Battiest and the late Allen Battiest, Ron and Veta Howard, and Great-Grandma is Flora Good Howard. All are of Duncan, Oklahoma.



Randa Faye Bollinger

Randall and Brittany Bollinger of Union City, Oklahoma, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Randa Faye Bollinger, born at 8:20 a.m. July 20, 2009. She weighed 6 pounds 11 ounces. Grandparents are Eddy and Gloria Kirkes of Union City, Paul Bollinger of Union City and Terry Dawson of Fletcher, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents include Lola Kirkes and the late Robert Kirkes of Eakly, Oklahoma, Don Tilley and the late Fern Tilley of Alex, Oklahoma. Randa is also the great-great-granddaughter of the late Rosie and Eli Potts.



Kenzie Alyssa Moore

Kenzie Alyssa Moore was born May 30, 2009, at Rapides Medical Center in Alexandria, Louisiana. She weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces and was 20 inches long. Proud parents are Kelsey McGee and Anthony Moore. Both grandmothers, Sydney McGee of McKinney, Texas, and Trina Moore of Pineville, Louisiana, also welcomed her in the delivery room. A very happy grandfather, Michael McGee of Kingsbury, Texas, and cousin, Elizabeth Bentzen of Canyon Lake, Texas, anxiously waited outside the delivery room. Other family members in the area welcomed her throughout the afternoon and evening. Kenzie was happily welcomed by her “Texas Family” as well! Great-grandmother Marjorie Starritt Walling of San Antonio, Texas, and great-grandfather Louie Joshua McGee of Kingsbury are excited to meet her. Also excited are great-aunts and uncles, Gordon and Linda Bentzen of ClearLake, Texas, and Bodey and Kathy Langford of Lockhart, Texas. Kenzie has many other Texas relatives who are so excited to meet her!

Choctaw Nation Food Distribution

Open 9:00 to 3:00 Monday through Friday
(We will take lunch from 11:30 to 12:00)

Warehouses & Market

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

Food Distribution Sites

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

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays November 2-23, except for:

- November 4: Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed).
- November 8: Bethel 9-10:30 a.m.; Smithville 12-2 p.m. (market closed).
- Closed November 11 and November 26-27 for holidays.
- Closed November 24, 25, 30 for inventory.
- Food Demo – November 12 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays November 3-23, except for:

- November 3: Stigler 9-12 a.m. (market closed).
- Closed November 11 and November 26-27 for holidays.
- Closed November 24, 25, 30 for inventory.
- Food Demo – November 10 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays November 2-23, except for:

- Closed November 11 and November 26-27 for holidays.
- Closed November 24, 25, 30 for inventory.
- Food Demo – November 3.

DURANT

Warehouse open weekdays November 2-23, except for:

- Closed November 11 and November 26-27 for holidays.
- Closed November 24, 25, 30 for inventory.
- Food Demo – November 5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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Youth learn ‘Safety First’ at Outreach Camp



The majority being the Choctaw Nation Outreach Services staff. The youth enjoyed a fishing clinic, wildlife presentation, flint napping, skeet training and instruction in fishing safety, fire safety, gun safety, bow shooting, stranger danger, car seat safety and more. They also took part in Chief Pyle’s Physical Fitness Challenge and in an Eddie Eagle class that was presented by the National Rifle Association.

The Choctaw Nation youth outreach department recently held its second annual “Safety First” camp. Previously held at the Choctaw Nation Capitol, Tushka Homma, the Safety First camp was moved to Wheelock Academy near Millerton this year due to construction of the new cafeteria on the Capitol grounds. The Safety First camp was again a great success and there were well over 100 Choctaw youth attending from the 10 1/2 counties that the Choctaw Nation serves. The youth were bused to the site in Millerton with approximately 50 adults on hand,



WIC offers more fun recipes for the family

Choctaw Nation WIC is proud to offer more fun recipes that can be made from our new WIC food packages! Have your children help you shop (they love to pick out fresh fruits and vegetables).

Oatmeal Pancakes

Kids will flip for these great pancakes! Combine 2 eggs, 2 tablespoons vegetable oil and 3/4 cup orange in a small bowl. In a larger bowl, mix together 1 cup flour, 1 cup rolled oats, 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Stir egg mixture into dry ingredients. Heat large frying pan lightly coated with oil or cooking spray and let the magic began. Makes 9 medium pancakes.

Sweet Potatoes

You can feel good serving these healthy “French fries.” Cut sweet potato into the shape of French fries. Lightly coat with oil and add a light sprinkling of salt and pepper. Bake in 425 degree oven for 30 minutes. (Save time! Cut the sweet potato into 8-10 wedges for faster cooking.)

Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

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

Tomatoes

Power up kid favorites with tomatoes. Add grape tomatoes cut into quarters to macaroni and cheese. Place a sliced tomato on grilled cheese sandwiches.

Whole-wheat Bread

Fill them up with whole-

wheat goodness!

Toast one slice whole-wheat bread. Spread lightly with cream cheese. Arrange sliced strawberries and blueberries over the cream cheese. (For extra fun, arrange the strawberries and blueberries to resemble the flag. Salute!)

Yogurt

Sprinkle Grape-Nuts® cereal in the bottom of a cup or bowl. Add a large spoonful of lemon or vanilla yogurt. Add a tablespoon of fruit. (Canned mandarin oranges are great.) Sprinkle Grape-Nuts® on top. Courtesy of Mass. WIC

Are you ready to purchase a new home?

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

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

• **October 20 - 4:30 p.m.**
Crowder Community Center

Never shake your baby

Ashley Norris, AFL

Little babies are fragile. A baby can go blind, become brain damaged, or die if shaken. A baby’s brain is soft and the neck is weak. When a baby is shaken, the head flops and the brain hits the inside of the skull. This can cause the brain to bruise, bleed, and swell. A baby who has been shaken may vomit, seem sleepy, or go

into a coma.

Make sure that everyone who cares for your baby knows not to shake her. Some people don’t understand how fragile babies are and play too roughly with them. Other people may get upset and shake the baby to try to stop their crying.

Always support your baby’s head when you are holding or moving her around. It is okay to bounce gently or rock her.

If you think your baby has been shaken, take her to the hospital right away so that medical care can be given.

Choctaw Nation AFL Project

The Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Project is an innovative program focused on pregnant teens,

their child, male partner and extended family members. The AFL program provides opportunities for a brighter future through integrated services within the Choctaw Nation and other agencies.

Participants will expand their knowledge through prenatal education, relationship enhancement programs, and parenting workshops. Striving for healthy outcomes in adolescent family lives is our program goal.

Services are provided through Choctaw Nation Outreach Services to pregnant Native American teens under 19 years of age or otherwise qualified through an eligible Native American.

For more information or questions about eligibility please call Angela Dancer, Project Director, at 1-877-285-6893.

Oklahoma
Tobacco
Helpline
1.800.QUIT.NOW

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Father and son celebrate

Rob Watkins turned 48 on September 22 and his son, Jeremy Watkins, turned 16 on September 9! We're both proud members of the Choctaw Nation along with my father, Baxter Watkins. All live in Monarch Beach, California. Jeremy is a sophomore at Dana Hills High and Rob is the CEO of MuGahat and Native American Minority Business Enterprise.



Happy anniversary

Happy anniversary to Buster and Jerry Jefferson and to Benny and Doris Grayham, all of Oklahoma City. The Jeffersons celebrated their 63rd anniversary on August 17. The Grayhams celebrated their 62nd anniversary on August 14.

40th anniversary

Louie Jackson and Kathleen Durant Jackson recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a luncheon held in their honor. They were married on August 23, 1969, at Mary Lee Clark Methodist Church in Oklahoma City with the Rev. D.D. Etchieson officiating. Kathleen is originally from Talihina and the daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. Forbis and Teola Durant.



Their children are Kim Jackson, and Kelley Jackson and wife Melissa. Their grandchildren are Tony, 7, and Piper, 3, all of Muskogee. The Jacksons attend Fife Memorial United Methodist Church in Muskogee. Louie is the Dean of Students at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah. Kathleen is a paraprofessional at Sequoyah also. They enjoy watching Sequoyah Indian sports and spending time with their grandbabies.

34th anniversary

Happy anniversary to Tommy and Brenda Ivie of Caney who are celebrating 34 years of marriage on October 25.

Brenda works for the Choctaw Head Start program as a coordinator. Tommy is a retired truck driver.



Look who's having a birthday

Look who is having a birthday on October 18! You guessed it – Eddy Kirkes. The following people are just a few who would like to wish him a happy birthday: his two beautiful daughters, Morgan and Brittany of Union City; his great wife, Gloria; his wonderful niece, Charity Angel of Sherman, Texas; his handsome nephew, Jeff Angel; and great-nephew, Casey Angel, both of Durant; his fantastic sister, Juanita Angel, and brother-in-law, Ellis Angel, and last but not least his sweet granddaughter, Randa. There are a lot more who would like to wish him happy birthday but too many to list. We hope you have a great birthday!



Happy sixth birthday

Happy sixth birthday to Julian Ibarra Jr. on October 27. Way to go on that big 4-pound catfish caught on June 27! Happy birthday from Mom, Poppy, sister and baby brother.



Happy birthday to my family

Happy 65th birthday to Ruthie Jefferson on October 5. Also happy birthday to my sister, Andrea, and my brother, Jason Jefferson, on October 3 and October 16 from Darrell Jefferson.

Happy 15th birthday

Kristianna Holder will be 15 on October 10. She has recently changed schools and is in the ninth grade. She will have a party with some of her friends.



Happy birthday to my daughters

Wishing a happy second birthday to Navia DeAnn Nedd on October 10, and happy first birthday to Carlena Sue Nedd on October 23 from Momma, Daddy, Tamara and Conrad.

Happy 95th birthday!!

Way to go Grandpa! Moses Lewis of Ramona, California, celebrated his 95th birthday on September 14. Best birthday wishes ever and more to come from daughter Anquita Eastburg of Flagstaff, Arizona, and son, Gary Lewis of Ramona; grandchildren, Shelley Lewis of Long Beach, California, David Lewis of Monrovia, California, Kim Dragos of Phoenix, Arizona, and Michelle Klunter of Flagstaff.



Happy 81st birthday!!

Happy 81st birthday to Willie Mack LeFlore (Floyd) on September 23, our most wonderful and beautiful wife, mother and grandmother. We wish you well on your day from all your little Choctaws.



Congratulations to Keelan

Congratulations to Keelan Trace Youngblood on his achievements in fourth grade at Wickes, Arkansas. He took a class for the gifted and talented. He made the Principal's Honor Roll with straight A's, received a star student certificate, a medal for first place in the fourth grade spelling bee, won third place in a spelling bee on the eighth grade level, made the most points in third and fourth grade boys accelerated reading program, got a trophy and won a bicycle. Keelan is the son of Jerry and Stephanie Youngblood, grandson of Rex and Cheryl Blaylock and Don and Margie Youngblood, and the great-grandson of Virginia Grant.



Happy 10th birthday

Angelina Marie Wilson, daughter of the late Richard V. Wilson and Melissa Wilson of Grannis, Arkansas, celebrated her 10th birthday on September 20. She is in fourth grade at Wickes Elementary School this year. Wishing you a happy and memorable birthday from Mom.



Happy eighth birthday

Ryan Thorne celebrated his eighth birthday bowling with family and friends. His birthday was August 28. He shares his birthday with his late great-grandma, Ella Murphy of Idabel. Ryan is the grandson of Gene and LaHoma Crauthers of Oklahoma City.



Celebrating first birthday

Parents Gena Isom and Joey Wahkinney along with sisters Saphire Alexander and Raven Wahkinney hosted a first birthday party for Lillian Jade Wahkinney. She turned one on August 4, 2009. Honorary attendee was Great-Grandmother Roxie Tsotigh of Lawton. Also in attendance were grandparents Vera and Kevin Wahkinney of Lawton, Uncle Jacob Tsotigh's family of Norman, Aunt Barbara Wilson's family of Lawton, Aunt Margie Wahkinney's family of Lawton, Cousin Lisa Maxey's family of Holdenville. Unable to attend but sending well-wishes were Mamaw Patricia Roberts of Wilbur, Oregon and Great-Granny Flora Isom of Daisy. Lily enjoyed pizza, cake, presents and singing with family!



Kim celebrates birthday

Kody Washington Kaniatobe sends his mom, Kimberly, a happy birthday on August 1. She is the daughter of Jimmy Ray Washington of Idabel and Ann Kaniatobe of Durant.



Happy second birthday

Look who turned 2!!! Christina Prim just had a wonderful birthday last month. Best birthday wishes from Dad, Mom and brother.



Happy sixth birthday

Connor Prim is turning 6. Happy Birthday to our little Monkey from Dad, Mom and Sister.



Happy sweet 16

Happy sweet 16 birthday!! Courtney Rinehart turned 16 on September 10. Happy birthday to Courtney from her Mom, Debra; her aunts, Susan and Lisa; and her grandpa, Joe.



Happy birthday

Happy 41st birthday to Deborah Moore on October 15 from her mom, family and friends.



Gengnagel completes basic combat training

Oklahoma National Guardsman PV2 Eric Gengnagel of Elgin, Oklahoma, graduated August 6 from U.S. Army Basic Combat Training, Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 10th Infantry at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Eric is a senior at Elgin High School where he is the varsity quarterback and defensive middle linebacker. He will also be attending Cameron University as a concurrent student. After graduation from high school, Eric will attend Advanced Individual Training as a Combat Medic/Health Care Specialist at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

Eric is the son of David and Susie Moser of Elgin and the grandson of Doyle and Dorie Denney of Kingston.



Eagle Scout

Jordan B. Logan of Ardmore recently achieved Boy Scouts highest rank of Eagle Scout. He has received numerous awards including Order of The Arrow Brotherhood, BSA Lifeguard, Scuba, Snorkeling, World Conservation and 34 merit badges. His Eagle project was to raise funds and construct a concrete pad and rest area with a maintenance free bench for citizens using a public walk/jogging path. Jordan is also a member of the National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars and is the son of Janet and Lewis Logan. His paternal great-grandparents were Thomas and Allie Potts Wall.



60th anniversary

Lahoma and Delbert Hotubbee were married August 25, 1949, by Rev. Roy Tate in Buffalo Valley. Delbert retired from the BIA after 30 years and Lahoma worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 10 years and as a substitute school teacher for five years. They have lived in Buffalo Valley for the last 25 years. They have four children; Kenneth Hotubbee and Jan of McAlester, Karen Goodner and Wayne of Tucson, Arizona, Keith Hotubbee and Dawn of Boonville, Arkansas, and Carl Hotubbee, Albuquerque, New Mexico; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Engaged to wed

Frankie Joy Pusley Sheffield would like to announce the engagement of Michael Sheffield and Judy LeCoz. Michael and Judy live in Atlanta, Georgia, and are planning for a March 2010 wedding. Michael is a descendent of Lyman Pusley. Congratulations to you both!



Cardona, Ludlow wed

Brandy Cardona and Terry Ludlow, both of Antlers were married in a private double-ring ceremony on July 18, 2009, at the groom's brother's home. The Rev. Ernest Baker officiated the ceremony. The couple has chosen Antlers as their home.



Happy 16th birthday!

Christopher Allen Clarke's mother, Patricia Tom Clarke, would like to wish him an awesome 16th birthday! Best birthday wishes ever and hope he gets everything he wants.



Happy 14th birthday

Happy 14th birthday to Keaton Rinehart. He turned 14 on October 11. Happy birthday to Keaton from his Mom, Debra, his aunts, Susan and Lisa, and his grandpa, Joe.



Congratulation times three for our family!!

Spencer and Linda Merryman celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on October 11. Spencer's grandfather, Leo Merryman, was on the original Dawes Rolls. For many years they made their home in Washington, raising their children, Michael and Michele.

Also celebrating are Michael and Cyndi Merryman of Washington, son and daughter-in-love (we don't say in law) of Spencer and Linda, who are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on October 12th.

All were in the Phoenix, Arizona, area that weekend to share their happiness as Mike and Cyndi's son, Brandon, married fiancé Roxie on October 10. Congratulations to you and may you have many years of happiness to come from your daughter, sister and aunt, Michele.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to our precious daughter, Rebecca, who turned sweet 16 on September 12 and to our boys, Andrew and Mattie. Andrew will be 3 on October 24 and Mattie will be 5 on October 28. Happy birthday from your Mama and Daddy.



Choctaws to Host Ivy League & Friends



Student Recruitment Night – Meet Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Columbia and more on November 7

Last year the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s (CNO) Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) hosted recruiters from Harvard University for a special night at CNO facilities in Durant, Oklahoma. Nearly 200 top CNO students and parents from 11 different states took advantage of the 2008 recruiting occasion to learn more about one of the best colleges in the nation – if not the world.

“To say our prior year’s event was a huge success is an understatement,” says Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “But this year our Scholarship Advisement Program has worked hard to make Ivy League and Friends Choctaw Student Recruitment even more memorable and valuable for our high-achieving scholars than last year’s experience. For 2009, SAP has confirmed commitments not only from Harvard, but also from Yale, Dartmouth and Columbia with even more great schools expected.

I highly recommend CNO college-bound students and parents take advantage of the opportunity to meet recruiters from some of America’s best colleges at Ivy League and Friends Choctaw Student Recruitment,” says Chief Pyle.

Ivy League & Friends Choctaw Student Recruitment – the Scholarship Advisement Program’s second annual recruitment gala – will start at 6 p.m. on Saturday, November 7 at the Choctaw Event Center in Durant. Pre-registration for students and parents is recommended. Online registration is available at SAP’s web site at www.choctawnation-sap.com/Ivy or by calling toll-free 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2523.

The nation’s premier colleges are actively seeking and recruiting motivated Native American scholars according to SAP Program Director Jo McDaniel. “Most of the leading schools in our country

now have programs or special departments dedicated to attracting, mentoring and helping Native Americans succeed,” says McDaniel.

“We greatly look forward to returning to the Choctaw Nation this November 7. Last year the Nation’s hospitality was overwhelming and the turnout phenomenal,” says Steven Abbott, Associate Director for Recruitment and Student Affairs at the Harvard University Native American Program. “It’s been wonderful to see the Choctaw Nation’s commitment to the education of its members – from Chief Pyle, the Scholarship Advisement Program and across the entire community,” Abbott adds.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has always valued education. Today, the CNO’s Scholarship Advisement Program (less than 3 years old) has quickly evolved into an important education offering from the Oklahoma-based tribe with over 250,000 members nation-wide. SAP’s mission is to focus on college preparation and retention for CNO students. The program supports students in high school through college and graduate school. SAP helps students in many ways – from preparing for college and choosing the right college to locating funding opportunities with tools like SAP’s newly created online scholarship database with access available from SAP’s Internet web site. In less than three years, enrollment in SAP’s program is close to 2,000 members and visits to the program’s web site (www.choctawnation-sap) exceed 1,000 per month.

Choctaw Nation selected for Partners in Progress Award

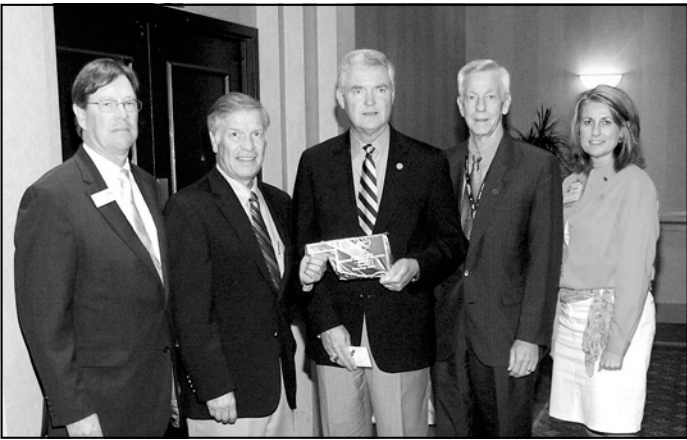
The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Child Care Assistance (CCA) program and Southeastern Kiamichi Technology Centers recently honored the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma with the Oklahoma Association of Technology Centers’ prestigious Partners in Progress Award.

The award was presented to the Choctaw Nation for its contribution to the development, promotion, and progress of Oklahoma’s CareerTech system during the 42nd Annual Career and Technology Education Summer Conference held August 4-6 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is a partner with Kiamichi Technology Centers in the truest sense. The Choctaw Nation is situated within the 13 counties that the Kiamichi Technology Centers’ District serves. As a Partner in Progress, the Choctaw Nation’s many organizational units contribute to economic development at the highest level. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma operates businesses involved in entertainment, health care, manufacturing, defense contracting and the service industry.

The Choctaw Nation’s Career Development Program has contributed over \$400,000 in educational benefits for students and educational entities, including Kiamichi Technology Centers. Other benefits the Choctaw Nation provides include, but are not limited to, vocational education, health services, social services, and a wide variety of employment opportunities within the southeastern part of Oklahoma. The Choctaw Nation participates and encourages its members to get involved in community services and promoting a green environment to preserve its presence in our state.

Kiamichi Technology Centers proudly recognizes the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as its 2009 Partner in Progress and looks forward to working with the Choctaw Nation today, tomorrow, and in the distant future to accomplish their mission and ours: to build self-worth and ensure economic prosperity for the citizens of Southeastern Oklahoma.



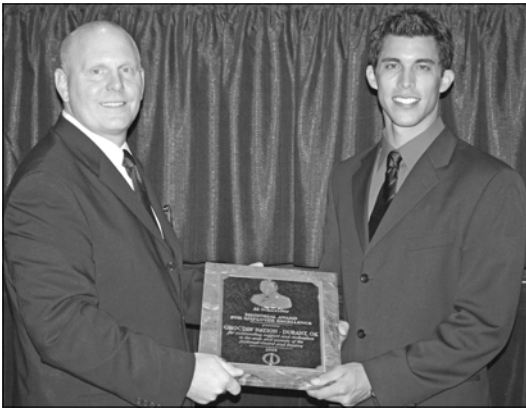
Pictured with the Partner for Progress Award are Pat McGregor, OKACTE Executive Director; Greg Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation; Dr. Ken English, Choctaw Nation Career Development Program Executive Director; Eddie Coleman, KTC Superintendent; and Shelley Free, KTC Deputy Superintendent.

Choctaw Nation receives Employer Excellence award

The Enlisted Association National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) recently honored the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma with the Al Schneider Memorial Award for Employer Excellence at their annual conference in Rochester, Minnesota. Choctaw Nation employee Seth Fairchild traveled to Rochester to accept the award for Choctaw Nation.

The award was named on behalf of A. J. Schneider, the founder of Schneider National Inc., the leading provider of premium truckload and intermodal services. Mr. A.J. Schneider started Schneider National, a corporate sponsor of EANGUS, in Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1935. The award is presented to an employer who has demonstrated outstanding support to the enlisted men and women of the National Guard and Reserves. The company must have contributed and demonstrated outstanding support to the enlisted men and women of the National Guard and Reserves.

In 1996, the Defense Department recognized Schneider National with the first-ever Employer Support Freedom Award and for its continued support program for their employees deployed to the Bosnia region.



Tribe teams up with Southeastern Child Care Resource and Referral

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Child Care Assistance (CCA) program and Southeastern Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) are teaming up to provide a resource library that will be available child care providers, parents, and the community in an 11-county area. This new library will be housed in the Southeastern CCR&R office in the University Center on the Southeastern Oklahoma State University campus. It will be equipped and staffed (a part-time position) through financial resources provided by the Choctaw Nation. Making collaboration official were, front row, Choctaw Nation Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Southeastern President Larry Minks, and back row, Southeastern Executive Assistant to the President Michele Claxton, Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance Director Marilyn Williams, Southeastern CCR&R Coordinator Stephanie Makke, and Durant Smart Start Director Heather Smiley.



Umsted wins first place with painting at the 23rd Annual Red Earth Festival

Janie Semple Umsted was awarded a first place ribbon with her painting (Batik) titled, Bear Claw Society Flag, on June 4. This year marked the 23rd Annual Red Earth Festival at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. More than 1,200 American Indian artists and dancers from throughout North America gathered to celebrate the richness and diversity of their heritage with the world. For three days Oklahoma City was the center of Native American art and culture in America.

Through the years Red Earth has matured into one of the most respected visual and performing arts events of its type-setting the standard for many of today’s American Indian art shows held throughout the nation. The Art Show is juried and those artists whose works are accepted go on to compete for recognition and cash awards.

Umsted is an artist who has spent a lifetime working in a variety of media which includes oils, acrylics, sculpture and the ancient media, batik. She is a descendent of two Choctaw Chiefs, Peter Pitchlynn (great-great-grandfather) and William F. Semple (great-uncle), and her art exudes the spirit of her Native American heritage. She works in such varied media and technique that often her work eludes the observer as to which style is singularly hers. Emphasis on vibrant color and dramatic design is perhaps the dominant element of her work. These qualities consistently permeate all aspects of her art. She has won many awards at the Annual Choctaw Art Show at Tushka Homma.

The winning painting was created using the medium of batik. It depicts a hand sewn flag called the Bear Claw So-



Janie Semple Umsted of Durant wins first place with her painting “Bear Claw Society” at Red Earth.

ciety Flag. Umsted has been working in batik for over 40 years, since her undergraduate days at the University of Oklahoma, and she has consistently won recognition at art shows for her work in this difficult-to-control medium. It is an ancient method of using melted wax to paint shapes and lines onto fabric, thereby blocking those areas from the dye. In steps, using one color of dye at a time, she meticulously develops an unusual design. Once applied, the wax holds each particular shape as the dye is introduced. The last color added is usually one of a very dark value such as black that permeates the entire

piece. The final step involves removing the wax using heat and then the artwork becomes pliable and flattened for dry mounting and framing.

Umsted earned a BFA in Art from the University of Oklahoma in 1969 and a ME from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1989. She has recently retired from teaching art at the Durant Middle School and she also served as the Director of Alumni and Public Relations at Southeastern from 1990 until 2000. Currently she is a professional artist and owner (with Alvina Ralls) of the Indian Territory Art Gallery in Durant.

Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement and agriculture loans.

To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10 1/2 county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe.

For more information, please contact Susan Edwards at 580-924-8280 or toll-free 800-522-6170.

Choctaw Nation Distance Learning Technology GED Classes



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

**Beginning
October 19, 2009**

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

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

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

Choctaw Nation, Hartshorne Schools partner for student achievement



Gary Grubbs, Hartshorne High School Counselor; Bob Pate, Choctaw Nation Tribal Council Member; Mark Ichord, Hartshorne P.S. Superintendent; and Jason Campbell, Deputy Director STAR program.

University of Tulsa partners with Choctaw Nation to boost Native American college success rates

Two Oklahoma institutions – The University of Tulsa (TU) and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) – are joining forces to help Oklahoma Native Americans achieve their higher education goals.

The partnership focuses on long-term, sustainable progress in the CNO members’ academic achievement -- reversing a national trend in Native American college dropout rates. Through financial, academic and advisory support, TU and CNO will work together to overcome barriers to academic success.

“We know the desire to attend college and earn a degree is strong among CNO’s top student scholars,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “With this partnership, we now have a holistic approach to helping our students cross that academic finish line.”

A key aspect of the TU/CNO partnership is early involvement with students and parents. TU will reach out to students as early as the eighth or ninth grade through CNO workshops, college preparation testing and school visits. TU also will act as a resource for the CNO Scholarship Advise-ment Program on issues related to college admission and financial aid.

While the number of Native Americans enrolled in colleges and universities has more than doubled in the past 30 years, graduation rates have remained low. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that 44 percent of American Indians age 25 or older had attended some college in 2007; however, only nine percent of that group had earned a bachelor’s degree as their highest level of educational attainment.

“As an educational leader in Oklahoma, TU has a responsibility to address a troubling dropout trend among Native American populations,” said TU President Steadman Upham. “Our partnership with the Choctaw Nation will create new opportunities for deserving students, while also making a meaningful impact within Oklahoma.”

The TU/CNO partnership also will provide the following:

- a four-year scholarship to eligible entering freshmen and transfers who are members of Choctaw Nation
- additional assistance in seeking outside scholarships for Choctaw students
- free tutoring for all Choctaw students
- support for the growth of the TU Native American Student Association to enrich campus diversity and cultural education
- an annual CNO event hosted by TU for tribal leaders and students with a focus on leadership

For more information, contact the TU Admission office at 918-631-2307, or email admission@utulsa.edu.

By Sue Phillips, Hartshorne Sun

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Councilman Bob Pate presented Hartshorne Public Schools Superintendent Mark Ichord a check from the tribe, applauding the positive impact Hartshorne Public Schools has on their students.

Superintendent Ichord stated the funds will serve Hartshorne students to support good behavior and honor roll trips, perfect attendance awards, and student achievement awards earned throughout the school year.

“We realize that schools can be the best chance, if not the only, some of our students will have to reach their full potential,” Chief Gregory E. Pyle says.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Hartshorne Public Schools encourage achievement for all students. The STAR program funds will be deposited directly into Hartshorne’s student activity account. The money will be allocated for student services and instruction as equitably as possible across all student groups.

Students benefit from good relationship

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Councilman Ted Dosh, right, presents a check to Dr. Jason Simeroth, Superintendent of Durant Schools, to be deposited in the school district’s student activity account. Funds are being distributed throughout the Choctaw Nation based on the amount of students in the district and on what percentage are Choctaw tribal members. Thirty percent of Durant’s enrollment is Native American.

“We realize that schools can be the best chance, if not the only, some of our students will have to reach their full potential,” Chief Gregory E. Pyle says. “We congratulate you on the successes and on the positive impact you have on the students in the Durant School District.”

“I have been here for a little over a year,” said Simeroth, “and I am impressed with the partnership between the school system and the Choctaw Nation. It is rare.”

Dosh agreed, stating that the Choctaw Nation also has a good relationship with the city and county, taking part in many joint ventures such as the new Emergency Response Center on Enterprise Boulevard.



Austin chosen to participate in elite football academy

Clark Austin, a freshman at Talihina Junior High, was chosen by the coaches at the Choctaw Nation Football Camp to participate in the Day of Champions Elite Running Backs Academy. Only 12 young men were invited from other camps held by the Day of Champion staff and Clark was fortunate to be one of those young men. The young men were chosen not solely on performance but also personal character such as respect, hard work, discipline, trust and good sportsmanship.

Clark had the opportunity to receive one-on-one instruction from a staff with collegiate and professional football coaching experience. Two of the instructors at the Elite Running Backs Academy were Coach Ken Heupel, father to former University of Oklahoma quarterback Josh Heupel, and Coach Earl Mosely, who had coached former Pittsburgh Steelers great Jerome Bettis.

Clark is the son of Jack and Philisha Austin and the grandson of Councilman Jack Austin Sr. and Norma Austin and Phillip and June Sharp.

Clark and his family would like to thank Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council for their commitment to the youth of Choctaw Nation and the opportunities they provide for them.



Clark Austin and Coach Earl Mosely.

Choctaw Nation GED Classes

BRYAN COUNTY Beginning date and time: Nov. 17, 2009 Tuesdays and Thursdays 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex South building, downstairs Durant, Okla.	LATIMER COUNTY Beginning date and time: Nov. 16, 2009 Mondays and Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Choctaw Nation Community Center 515 Center Point Rd. Wilburton, Okla.	McCURTAIN COUNTY Beginning date and time: Nov. 16, 2009 Mondays and Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. SOSU McCurtain County Campus, Idabel, Okla.	NORTH LEFLORE COUNTY Beginning date and time: Nov. 17, 2009 Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center Poteau, Okla.
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The class will meet 2 days each week for approximately 13 weeks. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 (per day) transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

November 2009



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Talihina 10:00-2:00	6	7
8	9	10 Antlers By Appt.	11 Durant 10:00-2:00	12	13 Idabel 10:00-2:00	14
15	16 Poteau 11:30-1:00	17 Atoka 10:00-2:00 Coalgate 10:30-1:30	18 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler By Appt.	19 Crowder By Appt.	20 Broken Bow 10:00-2:00	21
22	23 Wilburton 10:30-2:00	24 Wright City & Bethel By Appt.	25	26 Holiday	27 Holiday	28
29	30					

CHOCTAW NATION BOOK STORE

NEW!!!



Happy Birthday - \$2 each



Happy Birthday Moon - \$2 each

BIRTHDAY and ALL OCCASION CARDS at the CHOCTAW NATION BOOK STORE!

A one-of-a-kind card has just become available through the Choctaw Book Store. The front of the card features artwork by Norma Howard, noted Choctaw artist, and includes greetings in the Choctaw Nation language. Inside the card is a Bible verse written in both Choctaw and English. Cards are sold as a single card and envelope for \$2 each.



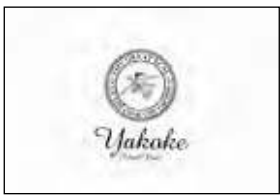
Merry Christmas 20-pack: \$20; each: \$1.50



Memories Each: \$2



Get Well Each: \$1.50



Yakoke Thank You SALE! 20-pack only \$12

Order now for the Holidays!

Contact the Choctaw Nation Book Store now to place your order!
By phone: 800-522-6170, ext. 5148 or toll-free 888-932-9199.
Web site: www.choctawschool.com.

Cards will be available for purchase at the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival.

Please send the following quantities:

- ___ Christmas card – Single (\$1.50 each)
- ___ Christmas card – 20-pack (\$20 each)
- ___ Memories card – Single (\$2)
- ___ Happy Birthday card – Single (\$2)
- ___ Happy Birthday Moon card – Single (\$2)
- ___ Get Well card – Single (\$1.50)
- ___ Yakoke card – Sale Price – 20-pack (\$12)

Ship to: _____
Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Country _____
E-mail _____
Phone # _____

Please send check or money order to Choctaw Nation Book Store
P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702-1210
www.choctawschool.com • www.choctawnation.com
If paying with a credit card:

Charge my: _____ _____

Card # _____

Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____

Telephone # _____

Book Store hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



Youth dancers on the lawn.



Mellissa and Mia Reich join the pow wow's Grand Entry.



Tough, Tough Choctaw winners: Tim Underwood, Fighting Heart Award; Matt Adams, first; and Chad Arnold, second.



Horseshoes – Men's doubles: first, Bunky Impson and Danny Adams.



Horseshoes – Men's singles: Chad Ritter, second; Mickey Qualls, first; Wilson Oosahwee, third.



Horseshoes – Womens doubles: first, Phyllis Bohanan and Ava Hilton.

2009 Labor Day Festival Photo Gallery



Speaker Delton Cox and Chief Gregory E. Pyle enjoy a social dance in the village.



A group of Mississippi Choctaw elders travel to the Labor Day Festival in Oklahoma. The joined in dancing in the village.



Horseshoes – Women's Ringer Champ: Phyllis Bohanan.



Horseshoes – Men's Ringer Champ: Bunky Impson.



New invention - a Panjo (made like a banjo, but with a baking pan). Terry Bullard of Fort Worth, Texas, is playing the instrument. Reece Harod is the inventor.



Ruth McMillian, daughter of Code Talker Tobias Frazier.



After making a trip to the Green Booth with empty cans and bottles, Joyce and Jim Lankford were rewarded for their environmentally conscious efforts with free T-shirts proclaiming the motto "sustaining our people, our tradition, our earth."



Darlene Noahubi holds grandson Bryce Parson.



Horseshoes – Men's doubles: second, Samuel and Charles Elk.



Horseshoes – Men's doubles: third, Micky and Donald Qualls.



Horseshoes – Women's singles: Phyllis Bohanan, second; Tifanie Bohanan, first; Susan Pittman, third.



Horseshoes – Youth singles: Rayburn Taylor, second (also ringer champ); Keegan Bohanan, first; and Chipper Jones, third.



Horseshoes – Women doubles: second, Sequina Taylor and Tiffanie Bohanan.



Horseshoes – Womens doubles: third, Susan Pittman and Vangie Robinson.



Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton are pictured with Choctaw Princesses from Oklahoma and California.



Don Tsosie was honored with a jacket for his participation in all 10 years of the Labor Day Basketball Tournament. His good sportsmanship over the years has been greatly appreciated.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton tosses the first ball to begin stick-ball play.



Boys Free Throw, age 6-9, 1st: Jaylen Dixon; 2nd: Josh Jones; 3rd: Kyle Passmore.



Boys Free Throw, age 10-12, 1st: Rylee Barton; 2nd: Sean Cooper; 3rd: Bryce Brister.



Boys Free Throw, age 13-15, 1st: Jacob Ross; 2nd: Kaleb Jones; 3rd: Braxton Barton.



Boys Free Throw, age 16-18, 1st: Kyle McKinney; 2nd: Keylan Milam; 3rd: Cade Clay.



Men's 3 pt winner: Kevin Kaseca.



Three-on-three basketball 13 and under: Unstoppables, Jacob Ross, Micaela Curtman, Stormy Taylor, Braxton Barton, Taylor Pickett.



Women's 3 pt winner: Kayla Burns.



Three-on-three basketball 14-18 – 1st: Calera, Kenny Walker, Cameron Tennison, Jordan Bacon, Austin Hartman, Ben Robison.



Three-on-three basketball 18-35 men: Cauthron, Tyrone Willis, Jimmy Cauthron, Jonathon Nunn, Steven Willi.



Three-on-three basketball, third, Derek Penz, Kannon Dry, Alex Steve and Gabriel Louis.



Three-on-three basketball men 36 and up: SE Ballers, Don Tsosie, Darrell Burris, Bobby Gordon and Mike Converse.



Carol Ayers with granddaughters Amelia and Elora.



Phoebe Allrunner came all the way from Albuquerque to join in the Labor Day festivities



Assistant Chief Gary Batton is presented with a plaque at the annual Choctaw Code Talkers Association Meeting. He is one of six who received recognition for their dedication in urging Congress to recognize Native American Code Talkers in World War I and II. Also awarded are Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Judy Allen, John Jackson, Brian McClain and Shannon McDaniel.



Cecil Spring, 94, is the oldest in attendance at the Monday morning activities.



Chief Pyle hands the keys to a fire-engine red 2009 GMC Sierra pickup to door prize winner Cindy Robinson of Boswell.



Sandra Byington of Broken Bow goes home with the midnight blue 2009 GMC Sierra.



Olin and Bernice Williams and granddaughter.



Chief Pyle is honored by gourd dancers.



Olin Williams officiates the Choctaw wedding of Angel Youngblood and Tommy Reese, both of Stringtown.



Terrapin races – Age 8-12: first, Bobby Chamblain; second, Jonathan Delcid; third, Jandra Levi. Age 3-7: first, Zackery Plumber; second, Quartermain Briggs; third, Kaylee Pate.



Best Dressed Terrapin – Age 3-7: Addison Wesley; Age 8-12: Jandra Levi. The winners are pictured with Councilman Joe Coley, Councilman Perry Thompson, Councilman Jack Austin, and Boswell Mayor Buck Eastwood.



Volleyball tournament – first, Dog Soldiers.



Storyteller Tim Tingle.

**Choctaw Nation
Fast Pitch Softball
Tournaments:**

– Women –
First: Ohoyahoma; Second: Heat; Third: Chahtas.

– Men –
First: Indian Boys; Second: Psycho; Third: Next of Kin; Fourth: Thunder.



Dancers circle newlyweds Matthew and Janet Billy Sam of Wilburton.

2009 Labor Day Festival Photo Gallery

Art Show Winners

Best of Show:
“Bloodlines” – Gwen Coleman Lester

Paintings:
First, “Shawl Dancer,” Kathy Sturch
Second, “Silence of the Storm,” Vicki Earthman
Third, “Blanket of Hope,” Kathy Sturch
Honorable Mention, “Darkness of Night,” Sandy Sliger
Heritage Award, “Bloodlines,” Gwen Coleman Lester

Graphics:
First, “The Blessing,” Gwen Coleman Lester
Second, “Evening Meeting,” Jane Semple Umsted
Third, “Junior Miss Buckskin,”

D.G. Smalling
Honorable Mention, “Rustic Falls,” Sandy Sliger
Heritage Award, “Buffalo Tribute,” Paul King

Sculpture:
First, “Eagle Dancer,” Lymon Choate
Second, “Shukha Nipi,” Lyman Choate
Third, “My Name is Beast,” Rebekah Ulm
Honorable Mention, “Floral Vine,” Laura Kavanaugh



Best of Show at Art Show - Gwen Coleman-Lester with “Bloodlines”

Heritage Award, “Shukha Nipi,” Lyman Choate

Pottery:
First, “Opa,” Verna Todd
Second, “Nakni,” Verna Todd
Third, “Watervase,” Edmon Perkins Jr.
Heritage Award, “Vllanaknil,” Verna Todd

Basketry:
First, “Nona’s Arrowhead,” Elizabeth Mitchell
Second, “The Spirit of BlackJack Mountain,” Susan Locke Charlesworth
Third, “Road Warrior,” Elizabeth Mitchell
Honorable Mention, “Flying Eagle,” Susan Locke Charlesworth
Heritage Award, “Choctaw Heart Basket,” Susan Locke Charlesworth

Cultural:
First, “A Gift for Andrew Jackson,” Robert Procter
Second, “Amanda Hudson – My Choctaw Heritage,” Chester Cowen

Third, “Limelight,” Kimberly Battiest
Honorable Mention, “Yannash – Alepa Buffalo Drum,” John H. Johnson White

Jewelry:
First, “Stonewear Beaded Necklace,” Mike Ralls
Second, “Bracelet, Ring Set,” Jerry Lowman
Third, “Stoneware Beaded Bracelet,” Mike Ralls
Honorable Mention, “Stickball Ring,” Jerry Lowman



Tom Brennan of Poteau is overall winner in 5k men’s division.



Ana Hollan of Mena, Arkansas, is overall winner in 5k women’s division.



Checker tournament – Tom Williams, second, and Jason Baker, first.



We made it! Assistant Chief Batton and Councilman Anthony Dillard cross the 5k finish line.



Youth checkers – Logan Amos, second, and Matthew Columbus, first.



Jackson Tulley.



Domino tournament – Jose Granados, second, and Mike Baker, first.



Youth dominoes – Caleb Sullivan, second, and Heaven Williams, first.



Boy Scout Troop 114 of Carrollton, Texas, spend the weekend at the festival to earn their American Indian Heritage badge.

Rare Choctaw ponies losing home, in need of adoption

In a dark meadow illuminated only by the moon and stars, the Colonial Spanish Mustangs commonly referred to as Choctaw ponies, started to move out of the surrounding brush to come eat the feed that Bryant Rickman laid on the ground. Touring the Rickman ranch most of the afternoon and into the evening, the small herd have come to eat. They have allowed human contact and photographs to be taken of them, but these horses would not allow human contact because they are the newest ones to be “rescued” from the mountain. They are still unsure of humans and most humans would be a little unsure of them. But no one can deny what an incredible part these timid creatures played in Native American life.

In 1540, De Soto introduced the Choctaw people to the horse that later became a strain of the Spanish Mustangs that are today’s Choctaw ponies. Native Americans, never having seen a horse, referred to the mustangs, as “Spirit Dogs” and the spirit dogs became a major part of the tribes’ culture and spirituality. The ponies revolutionized and enriched the Native Americans life. They were fast and could endure long distance with the roughest and rockiest of terrain, unshod. They could also survive on a diet that would kill other breeds of horses.

The ponies served many purposes. The ponies were used for hunting and gathering of food, carrying people and their belongings as they traveled to Indian Territory during the government’s imposed “relocation.” They helped to clear the Choctaw’s newly allotted lands. Traits of the Choctaw ponies are short strong backs,



mild temperaments, rather light in build, highly intelligent, hearty and sure-footed with good legs. It is these traits that allowed these horses to survive the hilly, rocky conditions that they live in now.

The tribesmen became exceptional horsemen with their breeding techniques and horsemanship skills. They also became formidable warriors and hunters that the white man came to fear. The breeding skills used by the Choctaws to develop their strain of horse still remains a mystery. The Choctaws preferred a color-

ful horse, like the roans, paints, and appaloosas, paper-faced and stocking-legged.

As a means to control Indian tribes the government called for a mass extermination of the Choctaw ponies, which the Indians prized and depended upon. Unknown to the government, there were Native American families secretly preserving the bloodline. These individuals were the Locke, Carter, Thurman, Crisp and Brame families

Gilbert Jones, a longtime advocate for preserving the lives of the Choctaw ponies passed away in 2000 at the age of 93. Before his death he passed his conservation work to Oklahoman Bryant Rickman and his wife, Darlene. Bryant is a retired FFA advisor and Voc-Ag teacher. Currently, the horses are grazing on land leased by ranchers from the lumber companies. Now the lumber companies are reclaiming their land and want the horses moved. These rare horses are losing the land where they have lived for decades, and some will lose their lives. Rickman is moving the horses from the paper company’s land to his own farm and surrounding neighbor’s land. But he is in need of assistance. He must catch them, quarantine them and only then are they able to be moved to other property.

If you would like to help the SW Spanish Mustang Association with adopting a horse, buying a horse or a donation, you are able to contact Bryant Rickman at PO Box 948, Antlers, OK 74523 or call 580-743-1991.

Jones Academy All-Boys School Annual Reunion

We encourage all the Jones boys who attended Jones Academy through the year 1954 to come and join us October 17 for our annual reunion. Wives/escorts are welcome. Registration is at 10 a.m. in the gymnasium.

Activities last all day, closing with the school’s annual gospel singing. All alumni and visitors are welcome.

For more information, please call Jimmy Bruner, Antlers, 580-298-3136.



Miss Oklahoma Taylor Treat poses with the Learn and Serve Committee of Jones Academy. Pictured are Dakota Voice, Oraceli Ortiz, (front) Mariella Chatkehoodle, (back) Lucinda Roberts, Desma Valdez, Daisica Rice, Jazlynn Bernal, Tyler Dressman, Maranda Rosiere, Alan Harjo, and Jeremy Herrington.

Gospel Singing

The First Indian Baptist Church is holding its annual Gospel Singing on October 24. Supper is at 5:30 p.m., singing begins at 7 p.m. MC is Joe Coley.

Everyone is welcome to attend. The First Indian Baptist Church is located at 608 W. Tyler in McAlester.



Judy Picone earns scholarship

Judy Picone, a 2009 Jones Academy/Hartshorne High School graduate, was recently awarded second place in the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board scholarship of \$250. To earn this scholarship Judy was required to complete an essay about her future college plans.

Judy has also received the Presidential Leadership Class Award, which covers resident tuition at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She is an English Major at SOSU in Durant and has goals of becoming an English professor. Judy would like to thank her support team: God, family, friends, Jones Academy, and the Choctaw Nation for helping her begin her college journey and realize her dreams. A very special thanks goes to David Sanchez who works for Jones Academy. He is very instrumental in getting students ready for college in the way of ACT testing preparations and never-ending motivation.

Judy is the daughter of Vincent and Sherry Picone and the granddaughter of Wayne and Nora Scott of Panola, Oklahoma, and Alex and Judy Picone of Kansas City, Missouri.

Alisha Picone attends leadership conference

Jones Academy student Alisha Picone enjoyed her six-day National Leaders Conference on Discover Medicine and Science at Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington D.C., during July 2009.



Alisha was nominated by her Harts-horne-Buzidragis Junior High School’s Gifted and Talented sponsor to attend an Invitational Leadership Conference through L.E.A.D. America. L.E.A.D. is an advanced and enriched curriculum held for our world’s most promising and outstanding middle school students. Selection to the conference is based on academic record, extracurricular activities and community involvement.

This inquiry-based program was designed to challenge middle school students with hands-on activities in the areas of health science, general science, and in the development of leadership skills. Topics included such titles as What is Science?, The Scientific Method, What is a Hypothesis?, Critical Thinking, and Introduction to Health Science and Forensic Science. The curriculum was delivered through college-style lectures with laboratory activities, large and small discussion groups, and focused activities designed to enhance understanding of each area. Alisha was allowed to use her own powers of deduction to achieve suitable conclusions for each designed scenario and then expressed her formulated outcome with concrete data and logic.

Other academic activities included a presentation of blood pressure cuff/vital signs, preparation of and final case study presentations, scientific method laboratory, and bone anatomy/ bone mending seminar using foam bone for hands-on experience. Finally, they enjoyed interacting with staff at the John Hopkins Emergency Response Organization (HERO) EMT training workshops. The workshops included training in CPR and basic first aid. Offsite visits also included Johns Hopkins University, the National Library of Medicine, the Maryland Science Center, the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Union Station, and the Baltimore Inner Harbor.

Alisha is exploring the medical and science fields as a career and has aspirations of becoming a pediatrician. Talihina Hospital Nurse Practitioner Joann Rosenberger has served as an inspiration and model to Alisha. On her visits to the hospital, Ms. Rosenberger has always been pleasant, informative, and genuinely interested in Alisha as a patient and a person. She has also offered insight into Alisha’s dreams of becoming a doctor.

To family, friends, and Jones Academy: Thank you for all your support in helping Alisha to explore the possibility of becoming a pediatrician. Through her explorations, she gains insight and becomes more focused on her education so that she can achieve her dream.

Alisha is the daughter of Vincent and Sherry Picone and the granddaughter of Wayne and Nora Scott of Panola, Oklahoma, and Alex and Judy Picone of Kansas City, Missouri.

Health screenings offered at Jones Academy

Students at Jones Academy receive health screenings during the school year. These services include a physical exam and screenings for dental, eyes, and hearing. First-grader Jordan Hayes from Platt City, MO is pictured taking an eye exam. He had perfect vision!



65th Birthday Gospel Singing

A 65th Birthday Gospel Singing for Henry Battist will be October 31 at St. Matthew Presbyterian Church. The singing will start at 7 p.m., featuring a surprise special group as well as local groups. Everyone is invited to attend.

Wilson Reunion

Descendants of Hugo Wilson will be having a reunion at 1 p.m. November 21 at Estrella Mountain Regional Park in Goodyear, Arizona. For information contact Cassandra Celaya at 623-221-4338 or Deanna at 623-849-8103.

Choctaw Defense

Continued from Page 1
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 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.”



Wheelock Heritage Festival

Sponsored by
McCurtain County Historical Society
Saturday, November 7
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
on the Wheelock Grounds
Millerton, Oklahoma
Traditional Games
Food, Demonstrations,
Singing, Dancing, Preaching,
Alumni Recognition/Awards
– Vendors welcome –
For more information
call Kenny Sivard 580-212-3639
or Barbara Grant at 580-746-2139

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*Alumni/Families/Friends
of Wheelock Academy*

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

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**Wheelock Academy
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CHOCTAW CASINO RESORT - DURANT
COMING FEBRUARY 2010

JOB FAIR
at Choctaw Event Center - Durant, OK
November 3, 2009 - 11am - 7pm
This event is for CDIB members exclusively. Must bring CDIB or Proof of Membership.

CHOCTAW
Casino Resort

OBITUARIES

Ida Taylor

Ida Taylor, 100, passed away on September 2, 2009, in Sobol. She was born July 5, 1909, in Rufe to Joseph and Eliza Loman Wesley.

Ida married John Taylor on October 6, 1928, in Choctaw County. She was a wonderful wife and mother who enjoyed taking care of her family and raising her grandchildren.

Ida was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; one son, Elton Taylor; step-daughter, Ruby Billy; sisters, Elma Wesley and Elizabeth Wesley; brothers, David Wesley, James Wesley, and Jackson Wesley; 11 grandsons, and four granddaughters.

She is survived by two sons, Edgar Taylor Sr. and wife Hazel, and Wilson Taylor Sr., both of Goodwater; one daughter, Jeffie Gibson of Goodwater; 33 grandchildren; 118 great-grandchildren; 178 great-great-grandchildren; and 23 great-great-great-grandchildren; as well as many other relatives and friends.



Ada Martyne Woods Hayden Caudell

Ada Martyne Woods Hayden Caudell, 90, of Tuskahoma passed away on September 10, 2009. She was born September 24, 1918, in Hugo to Geraldine Nelson and Martin Woods, their only child.

She attended various schools, including a convent school where she learned of the Catholic faith. At the age of 18, she converted to Catholicism, then attended Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma State University, for a fine arts degree in Drama and Music. While there she entered and won the Miss Oklahoma contest in 1940. She went on to place sixth in the Miss America pageant that year and appeared in the March 1941 issue of the National Geographic Magazine. Martyne was the first declared Native American to enter the Miss America Contest. After graduating, she moved to Washington, D.C., to live with her mother who worked in the offices of Senator Robert S. Kerr. After numerous odd jobs, she was accepted to study nursing at Johns Hopkins and became a registered nurse. She was also the first Choctaw Indian woman to attain a degree in nursing. After several years of serving in places as varied as an Indian reservation in Arizona to Public Health in Mississippi, Martyne returned to Oklahoma where she married Harry Caudell, assistant to Choctaw Chief Belden. After teaching nursing at Eastern State in Wilburton. Martyne served as a nursing supervisor for the State Health Department until her retirement.

Martyne was preceded in death by Colonel Everett Hayden, Harry Quenton Caudell and her parents, Martin Woods and Geraldine Nelson Woods, as well as stepfather, Paul Radcliffe.

She is survived by cousins and extended family, Nixon "Hap" Nelson, Michael Nelson, Charles Nelson, Gerald Nelson, Donald Haskins, Paul Blackwell, Norma Austin, Patricia Nelson, and numerous friends throughout the community, state and country.



Jesse Allen 'Sonny Boy' Tonihka Jr.

Jesse Allen "Sonny Boy" Tonihka Jr., 61, passed away peacefully January 3, 2009, at his home in Prescott, Arizona. He was born June 22, 1947, in Broken Bow, Oklahoma, the son of Jesse and Anna Mae Tonihka.

Jesse grew up in Golden. He served two tours in Vietnam. Jesse enjoyed fishing and hiking and was a fabulous dancer. He especially loved spending time with his family and friends. Jesse was so full of joy and love that he could brighten even the darkest of days with his smile and laughter. He lived his life to the fullest and remained strong through to the end. We were truly blessed to have him in our lives and we will never forget him.

Jesse is survived by his wife, Judy Young Tonihka; his four children, Jesse Tonihka III and wife Stephanie, Barbara Reyes and husband Rene, Anna Brambilla and husband Olegario, Joe Tonihka with Audra HighElk; his nine grandchildren, Chelsea, Jessica, Charlie, Maria, Miguel, Erika, Brandon, Sequoyah and Quanah; brothers, Donny, Larry and Michael; sisters, Judy, Joan and Peggy, and many family and friends who will miss him dearly.



Wilson 'Wick' Belvin

Wilson "Wick" Belvin, 76, passed away August 25, 2009, at his home in Midwest City. He was born to Lamos and Carrie Williams Belvin in Boswell on October 9, 1932.

He attended school at Goodland Presbyterian Home in Hugo. Wick left school at the age of 16 to join the U.S. Marine Corps where he proudly served during the Korean War. In 1959, he married Jackie Logan in Los Angeles, California, where they resided for many years. He loved sports and was an avid LA Laker fan. He attended the first Super Bowl game which was held in the coliseum in Los Angeles. In 1966, he formed his own girls softball and basketball team and tried to pass on his love of the game to his players. He attended various trade schools while working full-time, receiving certificates in hairdressing and auto mechanics. After moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico, he returned to school to get a college degree. He returned to Oklahoma and began working at Tinker AFB as a contract specialist where he remained until his retirement. After retirement he moved to Metairie, Louisiana, and attended college until the Katrina hurricane. Then he moved to Midwest City and enrolled at Rose State College. He only needed to pass biology to receive his degree at the time of his passing.

He enjoyed watching his nieces and nephews play ball, softball, baseball, it didn't matter. No matter the weather if he said he would be there, he would be there. He will be missed by all his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; and two brothers, Tommy Williams Jr., James Williams Sr., and an unnamed stillborn brother.

Wick is survived by a daughter, Misty Rose Belvin of Arizona; seven sisters, Lorene Arrow of Yukon, Lula Berryhill of El Reno, Patricia Sinnett of Tulsa, Rosina Mann, Wilma Murrow and husband Bracy, Linda Draper, and Carol McGuire, all of Oklahoma City; two brothers, Anthony Belvin of Moore, and Sammy Belvin of Oklahoma City; and a host of relatives.



Henry 'Chief' Davis

Henry Thompson Davis, fondly known as "Chief," passed away on September 10, 2009. He was born February 1, 1932, in Slim, Oklahoma, to Patterson Davis and Lizzie Thompson Willie.

Chief moved to this area from Pauls Valley about 40 years ago. He worked at Baggett Motors and Tri-County Autoplex for 30 years before retirement. He was baptized at Pickens Missionary Baptist Church and enjoyed fishing in his spare time. He was always a fantastic mechanic who loved to work on cars. His smile and jokes could light up the world.

Chief was preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Mary Davis; and one sister, Nary Willie.

Chief is survived by two sons, Henry Davis Jr. and wife Kathey of Oklahoma City, Donald Wayne Davis and wife Renee of Fairview; one daughter, Katherine Bonitz and husband Larry of Oklahoma City; six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild; an ex-wife, Joann Micheli of Fort Towson; three brothers, Joe Davis and wife Madeline of Shawnee, Alex Davis and James Davis, both of Oklahoma City; one sister: Josephine Gonzales of Albuquerque, New Mexico; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Harold Caddell

Harold Caddell, 84, passed away on August 4, 2009. He was born December 10, 1924, in Dallas, Texas, to Harold and Annie Caddell, an original enrollee.

Harold had a long military history as he had joined the Coast Guard at the age of 17 during WWII and also served in the Korean War. He was stationed on the Aleutian Islands, Alaska and Nolakai, Hawaii. He served on the CGC Blackthorn, USCGC Clover, CGC Nike, and CGC Rambler. He also piloted 82 footers and 92 footers. After 22 years of service, he retired as Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate E-8. He was also a member of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother-in-law, Charles Gonzales.

Harold is survived by his wife of 57 years, Merilys Caddell; his sister, Lavelle Gonzales; sons, Dennis Caddell and wife Linda of Picayune, Mississippi, Stephen Caddell and wife Shirley of Biloxi, Mississippi; daughters, Yvonne Kishimoto and husband Ted of Honolulu, Hawaii, Karen Sisk and husband Bill of Houston, Texas; grandchildren, Jonathan Caddell, Dennis Caddell Jr., Jennifer Turner and husband DC, Stephanie Brooks and husband Matt, Shelley Caddell and Adrienne Kishimoto; and great-grandchildren, Gabriel and Julian.



Harold Ray Moon

Harold Ray Moon passed away on July 31, 2009. He was born on April 30, 1941, in Allen.

He was in the construction trade since the age of 16 and a general contractor since 1977. He loved to play the guitar and sing country and gospel music. All who heard him were blessed by his music.

He is survived by his wife, Sharran; sons, Randal Moon and wife Brenda of Lucerne, Jeffrey Moon of Lakeport; daughters, Angle Moon and Melissa Moon of Vacaville; sisters, Kay Burger of Virginia and Marilyn Chatham of Santa Rosa, California; uncle, Wallace Davis of Texas; aunt, Kathy Logan of Arkansas; grandchildren, Jeffrey Moon, Melinda Omand, Michael Anderson, Dalton Lucero, Tristian Lucero and Colten James; great-grandchildren, Makayla, Ashley and Keely Sprague, Hayden Moon and Austin Hoffman.



Lewain 'Junior' Wesley

Lewain "Junior" Wesley passed away on July 31, 2009, at the VA Hospital in West Los Angeles, California.

He was loved by his family and everyone he knew for his gregarious disposition and Santa Claus appearance. With a huge white beard and long hair, the children all thought he was Santa. He was a great father, son, grandfather and brother. He took great pride in being a mentor, gave the best advice only when you asked and always had a kind word. He never spoke poorly of anyone and made sure that his life was spent well. He traveled extensively and loved to camp and fish. He took his children on a three-month summer vacation throughout Europe in a VW pop-top bus in 1979. He also brought all the kids out to Washington, D.C., for the opening of the Native American Museum on the Smithsonian National Mall. His career was spent in the last 50 years protecting our nation as a army sharpshooter and intelligence officer and he recently retired as a logistics manager for missile systems for the Navy with the Port Hueneme Surface Warfare Center in California. He will be missed immensely, as he was the catalyst for our family and a man who stood alone in a room full of great men.

He is survived by his wife, Laura; his children, Theresa and William; brother, Maurice and his family, Dennis, Stephen and Diana; Grandma Fern and Claude; his brothers and sisters, Dean, Julia and Lashay, Doreen, LaVonna, Bud, Jeff and Danny, Barry, Darrell, Beau and Kathy. He had numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Ernest Lee Caldwell

Ernest Lee Caldwell, 80, of Clarksville passed away on July 27, 2009, at Johnson Regional Medical Center. He was born in Tuttle on January 26, 1929, to Mary and Marion Caldwell.

He was living in Sanger, California, before moving to Clarksville in 1959. His family farmed and raised cattle and chickens while operating the Gulf Station during the 1960s. He also hauled coal for Peabody Coal Company before retiring in 1975. He was a member of the Clarksville Seventh Day Adventist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Juanita Ray and Kathryn Caldwell; three brothers, Russell, Wayne and James Caldwell; and a grandson, Jonathan Caldwell.

He is survived by six sons, Dale Caldwell and wife Anita, Duane Caldwell and wife Cheryl, all of Clarksville, Texas, Doyle Caldwell and wife Dona of Sheridan, Arkansas, Darrell Caldwell and wife Anita of Paris, Tennessee, David Caldwell and wife Karen of Anderson, South Carolina, and Dean Caldwell of Carthage, Missouri; four sisters, Pansy Phillips, Iness Wyrick, and Ester Stanley, all of California, and Margaret Voels of Minnesota; one brother, Donald Caldwell of Lamar, Arkansas; 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Ottis Wesley

Ottis Wesley, 79, passed away on September 2, 2009, in Lawton. He was born September 24, 1929, in Bennington to Bennett and Anna Brokeshoulder Wesley.

Our favorite memories of Ottis are of him wearing overalls with a carpenter pencil and wrenches in his pockets and car grease and oil all over them. He taught his family when they were young how to sing gospel music in parts and with harmony, and this carried on all his life as his family continues to sing. We will remember him standing behind the kids at singings and whispering to each one of them that he loved them and to remember who they were singing about. Ottis married Joy Vaughn on September 1, 1957 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Early in their marriage Ottis gave his life to the Lord. He graduated from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. He preached in California, Missouri and Oklahoma and later became a missionary to the Choctaws in Mississippi. Ottis worked in construction all his life. Ottis's hobbies included working on cars and doing carpentry. He loved music and watching his family sing. Ottis enjoyed reading and watching old cowboy movies, but he enjoyed most spending time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Tim Wesley and sister, Wynoka Ann Wesley.

He is survived by his wife; sons, Mark Wesley and wife Shelly of Durant, Daniel Wesley and wife Cynthia, Philip Wesley and wife Neta "Bug," all of Durant; daughter, Linda Powell and husband Jeffery of Lawton; grandchildren, LeiAnn Palmer and husband Daniel, Jennifer Lang and husband Ryan, all of Lawton, Lacey Wesley, Paul Wesley and wife Candice, Deidre Wesley and fiancée' Colby Inselman, Amanda Wesley, Scottie Wesley, Joshua Wesley, Leslie Drennan, all of Durant, Matthew Wesley of St. Louis, Missouri, Katy Wesley of Colorado, Texas, Stuart Drennan and wife Christina of Richardson, Texas; great-grandchildren, Emma Powell, Tyler Wesley, Taloa Craft, Riley Wesley, Violet Wesley, Bailey Mishler, Ziva Ernst, Kylie Drennan; sisters, Edith Hood and Carol Wesley, both of California; as well as many other relatives and friends.



Jason Douglas Knight

Jason Douglas Knight passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on August 31, 2008. He was born December 9, 1974, to Tom and Jan Knight, their youngest son.

He will be missed greatly, but his family will cherish wonderful memories of him always.

He is survived by his loving parents, Tom and Jan Knight of Owasso; his sister, Sherill Mendoza and husband Mike of Bixby; brother, Brian Knight and wife Theresa of Broken Arrow; six nieces; and six nephews.

Karen G. McGregor

Karen G. McGregor, 67, of Lexington passed away due to complications of lung cancer August 10, 2009, at Integris Baptist Medical Center with her family at her side. She was born February 12, 1942, in Lawton to Elvis Marion Watson and Gloria Jones Watson.

Karen graduated from Comanche High School in 1960. It was there that she met and married her high school sweetheart, James Albert McGregor on June 3, 1960. They lived in Purcell upon marrying and later moved to San Diego, California, where James was a member of the Beach Jumper Unit 1, Team 12. James and Karen moved to Lexington in 1971 and there they raised their three girls. Her dream was to be a mom and James allowed her to do just that. She will most be remembered for being a loving wife, mother and grandmother. Karen was a generous woman and respected friend. She enjoyed sewing, shopping, caring for her yard and spending time with her grandchildren. She was fun loving and had a great sense of humor. She was a member of Lexington First Baptist Church and was very active in vacation Bible school, Falls Creek and different fund raisers for cancer research. Just five days after completing her chemo and radiation treatments, she participated in the Relay for Life. After going into remission form cancer, Karen enjoyed giving her support to others who were going through what she had already been through. She loved her grandchildren so very much. She was a great support in every thing they chose to do. She was always spending time with her friend "Queet" and valued their friendship deeply.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and her aunt, Lafalla Fox.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years; three daughters, Kari Spears and husband Randy of Arkansas, Shelly Bryen and husband Jeff, Megan Little and husband Billy, all of Lexington; seven grandchildren, Matthew Pickle, Broc Bryen, Ryan Spears, Jade Little, Alec Bryen, Cole Bryen and Payton Little; brother, Robert Watson and wife Lene of North Carolina; many nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Sue Ann Loftin Greenwald

Sue Ann Loftin Greenwald passed away on July 12, 2009, after a heroic battle with pancreatic cancer. Sue was born September 26, 1938, in Hugo to Carroll and Pauline Loftin.

She was a loving wife, mother, sister, aunt and best friend. Sue always had a smile and something nice to say no matter how she felt. We all miss and love her but, we know she is in a far better place today than yesterday. Sue moved to Dallas in 1957 where she assisted many in her career as a professional secretary at Southwestern Bell, Collins Radio, Texas Instruments and Gibson's Department Stores. She retired from the Dallas County Sheriff's Department Photo Lab. Past volunteer work included, The American Red Cross, Aids Arms Network, Meals on Wheels and Dallas Inter-Tribal Center of Texas. Sue was especially proud of her Choctaw heritage. For the past five years her heart was warmed in serving head start children for the Wylie ISD.

Sue was preceded in death by her parents; grandparents; a son, Carmelo Joe Scoma; and a brother, Marshall Loftin.

Sue is survived by her loving and caring husband, Richard Greenwald; daughters, Nancy Sue Frost of Wicasset Maine, Sue Ann and husband James Tawwater of Sachse, Texas; brothers, Robert and wife Bennie Loftin of Kiowa, and Paul and wife Beverly Loftin of Sapulpa; sisters, Kay and husband John Roberts of Oklahoma City, Mary and husband Charles Melton of Paris, Texas, and Carol Grant of Tulsa; five grandchildren, Tarrah Marie Frost of Wicasset, Maine, Loren Fred Frost III of Gainesville, Florida, Manley Charles Frost of Chicopee, Massachusetts, James Adam Tawwater and Vanessa Ann Tawwater of Sachse, Texas; four great-grandchildren; Tyler Alden Halbrook and Mya G. Grace Frost of Wicasset, Maine, Mandy Marie Frost of Chicopee, and Kaleb E. Dink Tawwater of Sachse; several nieces and nephews; and one special niece, Wendy Melton Suttle of Paris, Texas.



OBITUARIES

Edna Marie ‘Remmie’ Perry

Edna Marie “Remmie” Perry of Spiro passed away on August 16, 2009, at the age of 62. She was born January 21, 1947, in Keota to Campbell Phillip and Mary Opal King Perry.

She was a member of the New Hope Indian Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and one sister, Betty Lorene Brooks.

She is survived by one sister, Davy Jean Brown and husband, Tommy of Keota, three brothers, Harold Perry and wife Betty of Spiro, Wayne Perry and wife Diane of Spiro, David Joe Perry and wife Pam of Spiro, one special nephew, Shalako Perry of Spiro; one uncle, Bill King and wife Dorothy of McAlester, one special friend, Matthew Kemp of McAlester, numerous nieces; nephews; cousins and many special friends.



Harold Wayne Roberson

Harold Wayne Roberson, 59, of Boswell passed away in Dallas, Texas, on September 24, 2009. Harold was born July 12, 1950, in Talihina, to Louie Roberson and Carrie Phillips Roberson.

He lived in the Boswell area all of his life. He married Glenda Hopkins on August 13, 1969. He loved playing softball, coon hunting, enjoyed being a shade-tree mechanic and a member of the Oklahoma Softball Hall of Fame. He was employed by the Food Distribution Department of the Choctaw Nation and member of Good Springs Presbyterian Church.

Harold was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Glenda Roberson of the home; one son, Kevin Wayne Roberson and wife Chasity; one daughter, Rachel Ainsworth; brothers, Alan Roberson and Randall Roberson; sisters, Carol Hunnicutt and Regina Roberson, all of Boswell; four grandchildren, Ciarra Ainsworth, McKenna Thompson, Makyah Roberson and Bryce Thomas, along with many other relatives and friends.



Marvene Bernice Sparks Parker

Marvene Bernice Sparks Parker passed away on July 31, 2009. She was born on January 19, 1942.

She is survived by her husband of 27 years, Bill Parker of Greenville, Texas; son, Billy Glover Jr. of Beeville, Texas; daughter, Carrie Andrews and husband Brandon of Greenville; special cousin, Jesse Cross; three brothers, Jack Sparks, Ronald Sparks and Edward Sparks; and sister Penny Sandrene and husband Pete.

Carl D. Kanimaya

Carl D. Kanimaya of Callisburg, Texas, passed away on August 6, 2009, at his home at the age of 77. Carl was born November 30, 1931, in Blanco to James and Alice Tucker Kanimaya.

He was loved by all who knew him.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Augusta Ashworth and Geneva Thomason.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Donna Kanimaya; four daughters, Connie Hughes of Arab, Alabama, Jane Torres of Grand Prairie, Texas, Rhonda Troiani of Flower Mound, Texas, Dawnette Arshnt of Lewisville, Texas; one son, Jeffrey Kanimaya of The Colony, Texas; two sisters, Stella Joplin and Ola May Hatridge of McAlester; two brothers, James “Junior” Kanimaya and Bob Kanimaya, both of Blanco, and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



James Robert Adams

James Robert Adams passed away on August 20, 2009. He was born on December 14, 1934.

He was a mail carrier in Oakdale. California, for three decades. Jim knew everyone on his route and many people by name in Oakdale. He was a hard worker and taught by example, frugality and self-reliance. Jim will be missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joh Henry Adams and Delma Quinton; brothers, Earl Adams and James Quinton; and sister, Bette Hendrix.

He is survived by his three children, Karen Adams and Dennis Sims of Oakdale, David and Angela Adams of Riverbank, California, and Paula and William Robinson of Westpoint, Utah; best friend and sister, Inez Frisk of Doniphan, Missouri; brother, Dean Quinton of Rock Springs, Wyoming; and seven grandchildren.

Bruce Emuel Millsap

Bruce Emuel Millsap passed away August 8, 2009, in Vidor, Texas at the age of 90. He was born February 15, 1919, at Wichita Falls, Texas, to William “Bill” Millsap and Rebecca Joan Willis Millsap. He was a member of the Baptist Church in Broaduss, Texas. Bruce was returned to Broaduss, Texas, to be buried next to his loving wife of many years, Ruby Jackson Millsap.

He spent his younger years at Soper with his beloved grandmother Elmira Willis, aunt and uncle Charles and Marie Willis Truesdale, and aunt Lina Willis Autry. Bruce loved to hunt and fish with his cousin, Sam Autry and his lifelong friend, Virgil Chesney.

He proudly served his country in World War II with the U.S. Army. When he returned he made his home at Beaumont, Texas, where he worked for many years as an ironworker.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandmother; aunts; brothers, Eugene “Gene” Millsap and Herbert “Herby” Keel; his daughter, Sonja “Sonny” Millsap Denis; grandson, Randy Bruce Staton; first wife, Mildred Helton Millsap; second wife, Pauline White Millsap; and third wife, Ruby Jackson Millsap.

He is survived by his brother, J.T. Keel of Soper; sister, Billie Kidwell of Oklahoma City; daughters, Annette Millsap Staton of Hugo, and Joy Millsap Easley of Talco, Texas; one stepdaughter, Mary Paula Hamil Staton of Foreman, Arkansas; grandchildren, John Staton Sr., Margaret Staton Loftin, Jayson Staton, Melissa Staton Robinson, Dennis Staton, and Albert Staton, all of Hugo, John Wisner and Paul Wisner of Mt. Pleasant, Texas; and special nephew, Tommy Keel of Vidor, Texas.



Alex J. Vanriette

Alex J. Vanriette passed away on July 23, 2009 in Muse, Oklahoma. He was born on October 2, 1922 in Albion to original enrollee Mamie Bryant and Alexander Vanriette.

Alex, a 28-year Army veteran, received three letters of commendation, Marksman rifle M-14. Upon his retirement, he went to work for the Oklahoma State Penitentiary and worked there for 10 years as a guard. He lived in McAlester for 15 years. Upon the death of his beloved wife Evelyn Vanriette, he sold his home and moved to Muse.

Alex was preceded in death by his wife and his parents.

He is survived by his sisters, Vera Southard of Krebs and Vivian Guerra of Dallas; one brother, Dave Vanriette of Talihina; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.



Anna Calhoun

Anna Calhoun passed away on January 22, 2009. She was born September 1, 1910, in Gay, Oklahoma, the eldest of three daughters of Jane and Noel Skelton. She moved to Bakersfield in 1946 and was later joined by her only child, Evelyn Mari. This is where she met and married her loving husband, Troy Lee Calhoun. Anna and Troy shared a life full of faith and devotion to Christ. They were long-standing members of the Rexland Acres Assembly of God Church. Ann enjoyed sewing for her grandchildren, crocheting, beading, and gardening. She will be remembered for the many stories she shared with us about her life growing up as a Choctaw Indian.

Ann was preceded in death by her husband, Troy; her parents; her sister, Sophie, and her grandson Mark Steven Ornelas.

She is survived by her loving daughter, Evelyn Mari and son-in-law John Ornelas; sister, Wynie Palmer of Stigler; cousin, Jean Keyes of Wright City; five grandchildren and their spouses, Theresa Flores, Vicky and Ron Casteel, Jon and Luisa Ornelas, Gail and Tyler Cannon, Lisa and Rick Linares; 17 great-grandchildren, and 15 great-great grandchildren; one niece; four nephews, and many relatives and friends in Oklahoma.

R.E. ‘Jack’ Emmert

R.E. “Jack” Emmert, 85, of Joshua retired founder and owner of Burleson Monument Company in Burleson passed away on August 7, 2009, in Fort Worth. He was born October 7, 1923, in Talihina to Robin and Bertha Bryant Emmert.

He married Helen Head on December 18, 1945, in Oklahoma City. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Nehenta Bay. Jack was a man of great faith, character and integrity. He retired from the monument business with an outstanding reputation. His interests were his family, church, gardening, cattle, and horses. He enjoyed running his tractor and working the arm. He was a long-time member of Mary’s Town Baptist Church in Joshua and taught men’s Sunday school class for the past 23 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Jill; and a sister, Betty Moline.

He is survived by his wife; son, Mark Emmert and wife Diana; daughters, Karen Miller and husband Ed, Dale Koen and husband Richard, and Joan Cochell; brothers, John, Mark and Bob; sisters, Frances and Patti; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; numerous nieces and nephews.



David John Durant

David John Durant of Blanco passed away on September 4, 2009, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, at the age of 91. David was born to Willie and Lillie Penny Durant on June 12, 1918, in Bennington.

He attended White Sand School. He married Katie Twyford on December 25, 1937, in Bennington. He worked as a cotton farmer in Arizona and the Savanna Fina Service Station after returning to Oklahoma. David enjoyed singing, playing guitar, pitching horseshoes and fishing.

David was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Katie; two infant daughters; and brothers, Lorenzo Durant and W.D. Durant.

He is survived by daughters, Jessie Porter and husband Ray of Pinetop, Mary Ellen Brunson of Grand Junction, Colorado; grandchildren, James Porter and wife Brenda of Crowder, Marilyn Drake and husband Bobby of Savanna, Roy David Brunson and wife Carla, Terry Segers, Chuck Brunson and wife Bobbie, all of Grand Junction, Colorado, Kelly Brunson and wife Robin of Salt Lake City, Utah; Virgil Durant and wife Ollie of Casa Grande, Arizona, Frank Durant of McAlester; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; and other family and friends.

Willard Wayne Olsen

Willard Wayne Olsen, a life-time Atoka area resident, passed away on August 14, 2009, at the age of 87. He was born July 4, 1922, to Thomas and Sarah Lindsey Olsen in Atoka County.

He served his country during World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was stationed for 3 1/2 years in England, France and Germany during WW II. He married Marian Faye Brown on October 31, 1948, at Reno, Nevada. He was a rancher and a patriotic Christian man who served his community as District 2 County Commissioner for 14 years. Willard was a longtime active member of the Black Jack Baptist Church, a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disable American Veterans.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Arvel Olsen and Cecil Olsen; and sister, Freda Busby.

Willard is survived by his wife, Marian; daughter; Paula Olsen of Atoka, Joye Reeder and husband Lynn of McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania, Sara Beth Loke and husband John of Gilbert, Arizona, Brenda Olsen of Atoka; sister, Dora Lee Barnett of Odessa, Texas; brother, Tommy Olsen and wife Dee of Clayton; grandchildren, Chad Downard and wife Martina of Augusta, Georgia, Pam Lake and husband Brian of Needmore, Pennsylvania, Jessica Pindell of Boston, Massachusetts, Jennifer Benadum of Oklahoma City, Heather Aduddell and husband Russell of Oklahoma City; great-grandchildren; Jordan, Molly, Reagan, Melanie, Lochlan and Isla; also numerous nieces; nephews; cousins; aunts; uncles; and other relatives, and many dear friends.



Helen Louise Reed Helfley

Helen Louise Reed Hefley, 86, passed away August 26, 2009, at her home in McAlester. She was born on November 13, 1922, in Scipio, Oklahoma, to Alfred Henry “Doc” and Dora Marie Anderson.

Helen came from a rich Choctaw-Chickasaw heritage and was a descendant of the Anderson and Folsom Choctaws of Mississippi. Helen attended Wheelock Academy during third through eighth grade. She married Austin Herman Clagg in Atoka on August 28, 1945. After Austin’s death in 1962, she married Harley Turnbow and later, Arvil Hefley, who also preceded her in death. She was the mother of seven children and a widow for some 37 years. She was saved at Northgate Baptist Church in McAlester and later became a member of North McAlester Free Will Baptist Church. Helen was a homemaker and also worked at the United States Naval Ammunition Depot and as a seamstress for Elsings and Seampruf (Komar). She was a secretary at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary and helped her daughter, Jackie, at the Hungry Bear Restaurant in 1980 and 1981, where she was known for her homemade pies. Helen’s hobbies included making raisin fried pies and Indian tacos, sewing, being with her family, and watching OU football and basketball.

She was preceded in death by her parents; an infant son, Bobby G. Clagg; five brothers, Edward H. Reed, Alfred H. Reed, Bob Junior Reed, David W. Reed, and Hugh Reed; two sisters, “Dollie” Mae Lorene Shipley and Oreta Jean Perez.

She is survived by three sisters, Lillian Slover, Marie Henderson, and Hazel Martin; six children, two daughters-in-law, and one son-in-law, Jackie Smith of Odessa, Texas, John Wayne and Sharon Clagg of McAlester, Joseph “Joe” Bruce and Carla Clagg of McAlester, Sharon and Mark Yandell of Tulsa, Kathy Louise Ludlum of McAlester, and Roger Wade Turnbow of McAlester; 16 grandchildren, Joy and Fred Cleveland, Leon and Sherry Murrin, Carla J. and Ron Williams, Sheila and Dr. M. Todd Cathey, Shawn and Carole Clagg, John Austin and Tracy Clagg, Crystal and Chris Bullard, Lindsay Clagg Fryer, Bradley Clagg, Jeremiah Yandell, Joshua Yandell, Adam Yandell, Brittany Yandell, Hyme LaFaunce, Hyde Ludlum, and Maegan Ludlum; and 27 great grandchildren.



Richard Vern Wilson

Richard Vern “Ricky” Wilson passed away August 9, 2009, at the age of 38. He was born August 27, 1970, at Talihina to Richard Vernett Wilson and Judy Elaine Sparks.

Ricky graduated from Hartshorne High School in 1988 and joined the U.S. Army. He married Melissa Paulene Bailey in November 1998 at Cove, Arkansas, and to this union a daughter, Angelina Marie, was born. Ricky was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Gran- nis. He was employed with Asplundh Tree Service as a power line clearance foreman and enjoyed his being able to work outside. He loved spending time with his family and was a loving husband and father.

He is survived by his wife; his daughter; two stepsons, Charles Michael Williams of Broken Bow and Kelly Ray Smith of Gran- nis; his father, Richard V. Wilson of Smithville; his mother and stepfather, Judy and Gerald of Hooks, Texas; a brother Michael Allen Wilson of Wickes; a sister, Tonya Elaine Wilson of Gilmer, Texas; a grandson, Charles Dakota Williams, his grandmother, Marjorie Sparks of Hooks; and a number of aunts; uncles; cousins; and other family members; and a host of friends.



Johnny Mark Blankinship

Johnny Mark Blankinship, 53, of Valley View, Texas, passed away August 19, 2009, at Valley View. He was born May 7, 1956, in Frederick to Johnny Bob and Leola Faye Barker Blankinship.

He was raised in the Panhandle of Texas and the Dallas/Fort Worth area. He attended school at Grand Prairie and Plano, Texas, and completed his education in Chula Vista, California. On September 2, 1973, he and Kimberly Sue Wulf were united in marriage at Chula Vista. They returned to Frederick, where he worked for the family plumbing company and raised their three children. He later was employed by Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Lawton. He later married Brenda Faye Shelton on September 15, 1991. They made their home in Mountain Park and then in Valley View, Texas, where he worked as a line locator for major utility companies in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Mark’s passion for music began early in life and he passed this talent onto his children. Music, singing, guitar, and his children and grandchildren were his greatest joy.

He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Lee and Dale Maddux of Euleess, Texas; his father and step-mother, John and Helen Blankinship of Hobart; two sons, Micah Blankinship of Valley View, and Jesse Blankinship and wife Stacie of Healdton; a daughter, Katie Chapman and husband Chris of Lawton; a daughter-in-law, Amber Hoyle of Sanger, Texas; three brothers, Jimmy Blankinship and wife Carolyn of Hillsboro, West Virginia, Bill Raines and wife Peggy of Hobart and Troy Maddux of Davidson; a sister, Kristi McCullough and husband Earl of Blair; six grandchildren, Aaron, Kleya, Nyla and Brian Blankinship and Karlee and Josilyn Chapman; a nephew, Jeremy Besson; and a host of cousins, aunts, uncles and many nieces and nephews from the Shelton family.



Easter Marie Capeheart

Easter Marie Capeheart, 91, Foreman, passed away on June 12, 2009. She was born on March 21, 1918, in Boswell to Rosa Crowder Phillips and Edgar Brown Phillips.

Easter was the youngest of seven siblings. She was a member of First United Methodist Church. She attended Goodland and graduated from Foreman High School. She spent 17 years working in Ashdown, Arkansas, as a legal secretary. She was a wonderful mother and grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Dayton Capeheart and her great-granddaughter, Sydni Rhea.

She is survived by two sons and one daughter-in-law, Clark Lewis Capeheart of Benton, Arkansas, and Ted C. and Betty Capeheart of Texarkana, Arkansas; one daughter and son-in-law, Nina and Boyce Rhea of DeKalb, Texas; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



Iti Fabussa

Question from reader:

I know that during the closing years of the 19th century Choctaws were divided as to the question of whether or not to allot the land or keep its ownership in common. We have a family story told to me by one of my grandfather’s brothers about neighborhood troubles during this time.

My mother told me the two groups were called “the Progressives” and the “Stand-patters.” My question is this: Were there other names given to the two groups and who were the leaders of each group?

Response from Iti Fabussa:

The decades leading up to Oklahoma statehood were a trying, but yet defining time in the history of the Choctaw Nation. During these years, perhaps more pointedly than at any other time, Choctaw people were forced to make a series of difficult decisions about whether and how much to assimilate within the surrounding United States and how much to maintain their ancient Choctaw identity and sovereignty.

At this time, two main parties were vying for political power within the Choctaw Nation. One group, known as “Progressives” or “Eagles” (or as “Bald Eagles” by their opponents), tended to be in favor of the Americanization of the Tribe and the allotment of what had always been jointly owned Tribal land to individuals. The other party was known as the “Nationals” (also called “Buzzards” by their opponents). They tended to focus their efforts on maintaining Choctaw social and political autonomy and traditional ways.

The conflict between the two reached its high point during the Tribal election of 1892. Incumbent Chief Wilson Jones ran for the Progressives. His opponent was Jacob B. Jackson, a college-educated full-blood Choctaw.

The election was an uncharacteristically violent one, and on September 11th 1892, a band of Nationals shot and killed four members of the Progressive Party, then traveled to McAlester, intending to kill more. In the following chaos, Chief Wilson Jones used his power to ask the Indian Agent to martially restore order to the Choctaw Nation.

A peace agreement was reached on September 15th, and the Nationals surrendered 17 men implicated in the killings and then dispersed. However, confusion and mistrust between both parties continued. On October 4th, the election was held at the Tvshkahomma Council House, with a detachment of United States cavalry present at the bequest of Chief Jones. Jones won the election by a count of 1705 to 1697 votes. Not wishing to see further disturbance within the Nation, the Nationals withdrew and did not contest the close election.

Nine of the 17 Nationals arrested in McAlester were sentenced to death by Tribal Court. U.S. authorities then commuted the sentences of all but one, Silan Lewis who was convicted of the assassination of Joe Haklotubbee. According to an ancient Choctaw custom, Lewis was given a period of freedom to get his affairs in order and is said to have even laid in his coffin to make sure it fit him. Lewis willingly appeared on the day of execution, November 5th, 1894 and was shot by a Lighthorseman. This was the last execution conducted under Choctaw Tribal law.

The election of 1894 passed peacefully, with Jefferson Gardner elected as Chief. Although a Progressive, he held an anti-allotment position and managed to postpone it through the duration of his tenure as Principle Chief.

Concurrently, a strong traditionalist, anti-allotment movement known as the “Four Mothers Society” formed among between the Choctaws, Chickasaw, Creek/Seminole, and Cherokee. Chitto Harjo, from the conservative Creek town of Arbeika was the leader of this 24,000-member coalition.

In 1896 the tide within Choctaw Nation turned back in favor of allotment, with the election of Green McCurtain as Principle Chief. Almost immediately, the process irrevocably began.

Please mail your questions to Iti Fabussa c/o BISHINIK, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702, or e-mail to bishinik@choctawnation.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.

Chahta

Words of the Month

English	Choctaw	pronunciation
shoe/shoes	shulush	shoh-lohsh
cup; glass	isht ishko	ehsht-ehsh-ko
deer	issi	ehs-si
black	lusa	loh-sah
three	tuchina	toh-che-nah
big	chito	che-toh

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.

Trail of Tears from Mississippi walked by our ancestors

◆ ◆ ◆ *Choctaw history ...*

the removal from Vicksburg up the Red and Big Fork to Ecore a’Fabre, the 1832 plan did not include the use of this route at all. Also, no use was to be made of Memphis, which necessitated transporting the Choctaws from Ahi Apet Okla and northern Okla Falaya over much longer distances as all were to be gathered at Vicksburg. From Vicksburg, they were to be transported to Arkansas Post by steamboat, from there to Little Rock by wagon, and divided there with Okla Falayans and Okla Hannalians taking the Military Trace from Little Rock to Fort Towson and the Ahi Apet Oklans taking the Little Rock -Fort Smith road.

Gaines also decreed that on these journeys, wagon transportation was to be furnished only for the ill or infirm. The remainder of the Choctaws were to march. As in 1831, the

gathering began in mid October. But, while the Choctaws were being gathered and herded toward Vicksburg and epidemic of cholera broke out in Vicksburg, with several hundred dying, from the dreaded disease and the remainder of the population of that city fleeing in an effort to escape. It was only natural, of course, that the fleeing citizens of Vicksburg spread the cholera epidemic, infecting everyone they encountered including the Choctaws who were enroute to Vicksburg. The cholera hit the Choctaws harder than it did the whites, as they had no natural immunity to the disease. There is no record of how many Choctaws died from this plague on their way to or at Vicksburg. Because of the highly contagious nature of cholera, when any person, Choctaw or white, died from the disease, their bodies

were heaped in piles, covered with brush, doused with kerosene or whale oil and burned.

When the Choctaws reached Vicksburg, they found the city deserted, and faced famine even before starting their trip. Frightened farmers, who had food supplies stored, hid from both white and Indian alike and refused to sell any of their food stocks. Even the steamboats waiting to take the Indians to Arkansas Post, the Walter Scott and the repaired Brandywine had been deserted by their crews fleeing from the cholera threat. George Gibson had his agents offload some of the supplies from the two steamboats and by setting up a strict rationing program, managed to keep the Choctaws alive until boat crews could be rounded up to move them west.

To be continued in the November BISHINIK

2008-09 Little Miss Cheyenne Shomo final goodbye

Hello! My name is Cheyenne Rae Shomo. I am the daughter of Billy and Tina Shomo of Broken Bow.

On August 28, 2008, the Lord blessed me as I became Little Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. I know this would not have been possible without him. By me becoming Little Miss I have gotten to go to many places and meet a lot of different people. I will never forget all the wonderful things I have gotten to do and experience. I have learned alot about myself, my culture and my heritage and I plan to always keep learning.

Thank you Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton, the Tribal Council and the Choctaw Nation for all the support that you have given me. I just hope that I have represented the tribe and the Choctaw people to the best of my ability. I am honored to say that I am Choctaw. Dayla and Kanda thank you for all the



memories that we got to share together and all the laughs.

Dad thank you for all the sacrifices that you make for our family, you are the best dad anyone could want or have, I love you. Mom thanks for always believing in me and taking me to all the different places I needed to be at this year and the dresses that you made for me, we have shared a lot of time together this past

year and we have become close, I Love You. To my sisters Brittney, Trista, Tiffany and Whitney thanks for always encouraging and supporting me. To my Nanny, thank you for all the things that you have also done for me.

To my Church family at NaYimmi Baptist, thank you for always keeping me in your prayers when my mother and I traveled. And a thank you goes out to Patsy Pilant, Michael Pilant, Jr., Wallace Tushka and Presley Byington for all the beautiful beadwork that you have made for me.

Again to the Chief and Assistant Chief thanks for the dances that we shared in California, that is a time that I will always remember. I will always treasure my time as being Little Miss Choctaw Nation.

And one last verse “Remember through Christ all things are possible.”

POW WOW

5TH ANNUAL
SATURDAY, NOV. 28, 2009
CHOCTAW EVENT CENTER

OVER \$50,000 PRIZE MONEY

DANCE CATEGORIES

Women Adult, Junior & Teen:
Cloth, Buckskin, Fancy Shawl, Jingle Dress, Golden Age Northern & Southern

Men Adult, Junior & Teen:
Traditional, Straight, Grass, Fancy, Chicken, Golden Age Northern & Southern

Womens Choctaw Traditional Dance Contest

Tiny Tots

Drum Contest:
Northern & Southern

Food & Crafts Booths Available

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