

# Solemates provides shoes for needy students

Choctaw Nation Outreach Services has a successful new program this year that is providing shoes so that students may begin the school year fashionably and comfortably shod. Needy children who otherwise would not get a new pair of shoes are being helped through the generosity of individuals under the title of a program called “Solemates.”

“We make sure the shoes go to Choctaw children who can really use them,” said Randy Hammons, Executive Director of the Outreach Program. This is not a federal or tribally funded program, it is solely funded by individual donations. “Many donations are made by getting a size from the Outreach program for a specific boy or girl and purchasing shoes and returning those shoes to the office, similar to an Angel Tree,” said Hammons. Many other donations are monetary gifts that the program staff can use to purchase shoes for the students.

Information about Solemates appeared on the Choctaw Nation web site and people from across the world began to help out. “We had a check come in from California, and another from Ireland,” said Hammons. “The man in Ireland said that he was a teacher doing research on our web site about the assistance from the Choctaws in 1847 during the potato famine and thought Solemates would enable him to “give back” in a small way. The Irish schoolteacher also said he wanted to be a part of the annual coat drive the Outreach Program is gearing up for this fall!”

Donations can be sent to Choctaw Nation Outreach, P.O. Box 88, Hugo OK 74743, or dropped off at 219 N. Broadway in Hugo. For more information, please call Choctaw Nation Outreach about Solemates at 580-326-8304.

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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 life styles.



Dignitaries line up to cut the ribbon in front of the newly opened Choctaw Community Center in Durant.

# State-of-the-art facilities open in Durant

Ribboncuttings in Durant celebrated the openings of a new Choctaw Community Center and new housing in the Independent Elderly Living Community.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and Councilman Ted Dosh welcomed more than 200 people to the dedication of the new 7,600-sq.-ft. community center on August 19. The facility features a state-of-the-art kitchen equipped with Energy-Star appliances and ample parking all around the center. A Social Services representative and a field office worker will be housed in the facility, making it easier for the residents of Durant to access tribal program information and services.

The center is located on Big Lot Blvd. just east of the Big Lots Distribution Warehouse. The phone number for this new center is 580-924-7810.

Grand opening festivities continued on August 20 for the opening of 16 new apartments and a common area

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Apartment complexes open for senior citizens in the Durant area’s Independent Living Community.

# CMDC awarded Minority Manufacturer of the Year

Choctaw Manufacturing and Development Corp. (CMDC) was named the “Minority Manufacturer of the Year” during Oklahoma Minority Enterprise Development Week. Award recipients participated in a celebration of success held at the Metro Technology Center, Oklahoma City. The event was coordinated by the Native American Business Enterprise Center and Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma Inc.

Under the leadership of Chief Gregory E. Pyle, CMDC has grown to be a world-class manufacturer of military hardware for national defense. The company has its beginning as a metal forming and chemical finishing subcontractor for Texas Instruments Missile Systems.

Steve Benefield, CEO and managing officer, has acquired contracts for the company and taken it to a new level. The business now has 17 major customers including Raytheon, Lockheed/Martin, Boeing and virtually every branch of the service. Increasing the capacity of the business has allowed it to compete for larger contracts such as the improved Army space heater. This is a 10-year contract for the design, development and manufacture of the Army’s next multi-fuel space heater. CMDC has been awarded a multi-million U.S. Marine Corps contract.

The size of the original manufacturing facility in Hugo has more than doubled to cover 110,000 square feet of manufacturing space and expanded into a 16.5-acre industrial park in McAlester. Over 100 jobs have been created by the company.

“The success of Choctaw Manufacturing and Development is phenomenal,” said James Ray, NABEC coordinator. “We were pleased to recognize them for their success, their contribution to the state’s economy and for the jobs they have created.”



Pictured from left are James Ray, Native American Business Enterprise Center coordinator; Scott Calaway, Choctaw Manufacturing and Development Corporation applications engineer; Phillip Boyd, CMDC purchasing manager; Cindi Briscoe, CMDC deputy managing officer; Steve Benefield, CMDC managing officer; Victor McIntire, program manager; Genia Marcangeli, NABEC business development specialist; and Bobby Jefferson, deputy director, Dallas NEC, MBDA.

# Choctaw Housing receives \$8.6 million of stimulus money

The Choctaw Housing Authority has received notification they will receive \$8.6 million of stimulus money to build an additional 72 Independent Living Homes for senior citizens in five sites across southeastern Oklahoma. A large portion of that amount, \$4.6 million, was awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act formula, and the other \$4 million was awarded competitively. Only 61 of the 436 tribes who applied received any of those competitive grant funds.

Deputy Director of the Choctaw Housing Authority Duane Winship said the success of receiving the funding from the stimulus package was largely due to the foresight of Chief Gregory E. Pyle and the Tribal Council.

“Twelve years ago, we were instructed to purchase sites large enough to put an initial 10 units per site and have plenty of room to expand in the future,” said Winship. “We have been getting those sites ready so that homes can be built as funds become available.”

Part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was intended to infuse jobs and revenue back into the economy as quickly as possible, so requests that were “shovel ready” were more likely to be considered. Since the Choctaw Nation had a master plan and infrastructure in place for the Independent Living Homes, it was a perfect match for the Recovery Act allocations.

“We are very appreciative of this opportunity to help our elderly with their housing needs,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. The \$8.6 million will build 72 new units on five sites: at least 19 of which will be in Poteau, at least 15 in Hugo, at least 15 in Durant, 12 in Talihina and nine in Idabel. Talihina is also going to get a community building and above-ground storm shelter.

“The Choctaw Housing Authority is ready to begin building,” said Winship.



## Spears named Residential Educator of the Year

Brad Spears, Administrator of Jones Academy, was recently named “Residential Educator of the Year” at the National BIE (Bureau of Indian Education) Summer Institute held in Phoenix, Arizona. Spears was one of three individuals from across the United States to be recognized for this prestigious award. Spears stated, “I am honored and privileged to have been chosen as the residential educator of the year. I would like to thank the students and staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment. We at Jones Academy strive to meet the needs of our students by working together and providing an atmosphere where students can reach their full potential.” Spears stated, “I would like to thank Ms. Joy Martin, Education Line Officer, from the Oklahoma City Area Education Office for nominating me for this award.” Spears would also like to thank the Choctaw Nation for its continued support of Jones Academy’s students and staff.

# Tribe hosts national NATHPO meeting

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma hosted the 11th annual meeting of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers during the week of August 10-14 at the Choctaw Nation Conference Center in Durant. Thirty-nine tribes were represented at the conference as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management and the Federal Communications Commission.

A pre-conference workshop, held August 10, made history as the first-ever public gathering to address the “Culturally Unidentifiable Native American Inventories Database,” or CUNAIID. The database is a compilation of data from museums and federal agencies throughout the United States. The workshop touched on how CUNAIID works and navigating the database as well as noticing inaccuracies.

NATHPO President Bambi Kraus explained to participants that documentation shows up to 200,000 human remains could be repatriated but over half of them were determined to be “unidentifiable.” The need to identify the remains and accompanying artifacts led to the creation of CUNAIID.

“There are 123,000 individual Native Americans needing to be identified, not including almost one million funerary



**Cultural Resources Executive Director Sue Folsom, NATHPO General Chairman Reno Franklin, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Historical Preservation Director Terry Cole, NATHPO President Bambi Kraus and Cyndi Houser, Cultural Resources assistant youth coordinator.**

objects,” she said. “Today we can work on figuring out our next steps. Just because something is prehistoric doesn’t mean it can’t be identified,” Kraus said.

Opening ceremonies on August 11 included an invocation by Olin Williams, a historian with the Choctaw Nation. Williams walked to the podium with a woven Choctaw basket cradled on one arm.

“This basket belonged to my grandmother,” he said. “It is a continuous weaving, no beginning, no end. It has to be woven by one creator. The neutral color on the bottom of the basket symbolizes that all humans are basically the same,” he continued. “We all have the same needs.”

Chief Gregory E. Pyle wel-

comed everyone to the NATHPO conference, saying that the program which was developed 11 years ago has been one of the most successful in tribal history.

“Tribal Historic Preservation has proven to be instrumental in sharing vital information with tribal and federal agencies across the country,” Chief Pyle said.

NATHPO is guided by three main principles: tribal sovereignty; confidentiality regarding cultural and ceremonial practices and places of religious or cultural significance; and recognizing that the cultural and heritage preservation interests of Indian Nations and their peoples often extend far beyond the boundaries of present-day reservations, of-

ten crossing state and national boundaries.

Participants continued to meet through Friday on topics that enable NATHPO to support the preservation of Native American culture and traditions.

“I would like to thank everyone who participated,” said Terry Cole, Choctaw Nation’s Director of Historical Preservation. “We had a very successful, meeting, one from which we all have benefitted.”

“This is the environment where we can get a lot done,” said NATHPO General Chairman Reno Franklin. “We can take what we learn back home, increasing our communication with tribal leaders and federal agencies on preservation issues.”



**Teaching certificates were presented to Helena Ward, Roy Cooper and Robert “Tamaka” Bailey. Pictured are Council Speaker Delton Cox, Community Teachers Director Richard Adams, Ward, Cooper, Bailey, and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.**

## Three certified to teach Choctaw language

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council opened new business August 8 with presentation of teacher certificates to three new instructors of the Choctaw language – Helena Ward who will teach in the Sherman, Texas, area, Roy Cooper who will hold classes in Ardmore, and Robert “Tamaka” Bailey who is taking his new certification home to San Francisco to share with fellow Choctaws on the West Coast.

Also on the agenda and approved during the Council’s regular session were:

- modification of the 20-year long-range transportation plan
- applications to DHHS for the 2010 budgets for LIHEAP and Community Services Block Grant

- approving placement of title to a portion of Bryan County property in Trust status
- conveyance of real property in Bryan County to Choctaw Nation Enterprises Corporation
- approval of disposal of excess equipment
- hay baling/land cleanup revocable permit
- assurances regarding the 2009 ICDBG grant application
- a resolution assuring that Finance and Procurement Policies and Procedures are in compliance
- a resolution authorizing General Funds to assure completion of the CDBG Grant Project
- Maintenance and Operating Plan for Texoma Printing Services Complex

## NOTES TO THE NATION

### An asset to the community

Dear Chief Pyle,

It’s always great to read about partnerships and collaborations, such as the one between the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. The Native American Excellence in Education Program is a wonderful incentive to encourage Native American students to enter the field of academics and teaching.

We certainly agree with you that this makes a way for graduate teachers to serve as role models to children of the same ethnicity. Our young people need positive role models because they are so impressionable and vulnerable.

Unfortunately, much of what they encounter in today’s information society lacks integrity, sound principals and pride in one’s heritage. The Native American Excellence in Education Program is a big step forward one teacher at a time, to turning things around.

REI is appreciative of your partnership with SOSU and with our organization as well. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma continues to be our community’s greatest asset!

**Tom Seth Smith, CECd, REI President and CEO**

### Family is proud of accomplishments

Dear Choctaw Nation,

We would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for their support of our son, Richard M. Folsum Jr., who graduated May 8 from Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma, with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. He was also on the Dean’s List.

He had a birthday in July along with his two oldest daughters, Caitlyn and Caylie. His wife, Misty, and youngest daughter, Calissa, are very proud of him. His father and mother, Richard Sr. and Wilda Folsum, are also proud.

**Wilda Folsum, Comanche, Oklahoma**



### Members attend Lawrence gathering

Dear Chief Pyle,

I want to let you know how much my son and I enjoyed the meeting at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence. I enjoyed meeting you and Assistant Chief Batton and your staff. Everyone was helpful with information about their departments. I hope I am able to take advantage of opportunities that were never available to my Choctaw family. Thank you for visiting the Kansas area sharing the pride, hope and success of the Choctaw Nation.

**Mary Russo  
Prairie Village, Kansas**

### YAB atudent appreciates support

Dear Assistant Chief Batton,

I wanted to thank you for all the support you have given to the Youth Advisory Board. I sincerely appreciate everything you have done. Thank you for helping to make our New York trip and Senior YAB banquet a success. YAB has been a really important part of my high school career and I will never forget the projects we’ve done, the trips we’ve taken or the lessons I’ve learned.

**Erin DeWalt  
Calera, Oklahoma**

### Choctaw meeting inspiring

Dear Chief Pyle,

I am writing for at least two reasons: First, thank you for visiting Wichita, Kansas. Meeting you and listening to your greetings to the Choctaws here in our area were inspiring. My husband, daughter, two grandsons and I attended and shook your hand. My Choctaw husband is a Marine veteran who served in Vietnam for two tours. He truly appreciates the jackets and other items that have been sent to him over the years honoring him and his service for his country. Since your visit, he enrolled in the online language program. Thanks again! We’re happy we got to meet you.

**Charlene Manning  
Wichita, Kansas**

### Scholarship Advisement Program introduces student to opportunities

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I wish to extend my most gracious appreciation to the staff at Choctaw Nation’s Scholarship Advisement Program for introducing me to the many opportunities available for students pursuing higher education.

In November 2008, my family and I traveled from Houston, Texas, to Durant at the invitation of Jo McDaniel and the Scholarship Advisement Program in order to meet with representatives from Harvard University regarding their Native American Studies.

While there, we had the pleasure of meeting many people working toward the advancement of Choctaws. I met with SAP staff who strongly encouraged me to participate in College Horizons, so that I could perhaps pursue an education at one of our country’s original Ivy League schools.

This summer, I had the privilege of attending the College Horizons program at Yale University and worked diligently with admissions directors from a variety of schools in order to prepare a solid application, featuring all of my high school achievements. While at College Horizons I was able to connect with other Native Americans with whom I shared similar high school experiences, trials and tribulations.

Through the expertise and guidance I received from Scholarship Advisement, I have learned that I can reach for the stars and achieve my dreams.

I strongly encourage all of my Choctaw friends to contact the Scholarship Advisement Program to learn more about College Horizons (for undergraduate and graduate students). Quest-Bridge, and many other programs available for us.

**Sarah Elizabeth Motes  
Houston, Texas**

### A proud tradition of service

Dear Chief Pyle,

Please accept these belated congratulations to you and the entire Choctaw Nation for being the first Native American Tribe to receive the American Freedom Award presented by the United States Department of Defense. We know there were thousands of deserving nominees and only a handful of recipients for this prestigious honor.

We are very proud of the outstanding support the Choctaw Nation gives to our military Guardsmen, Reservists and other military personnel. Your contributions to these deserving men and women have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

The Choctaw Nation has a proud tradition of service to its members and the community, and we are honored to have partnered with the Choctaw Nation on numerous projects through the years. We look forward to our continued relationship in the future.

**Jonna Kauger Kirschner, Red Earth Board President  
Dee Jerome, Past President, Choctaw Tribal Member**

**Erin Merryweather, Programs Director,  
Choctaw Tribal Member**

**Gregory E. Pyle  
Chief**

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

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# On the 2010 Census, please write CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

*From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

The United States Census Bureau is gearing up to count all citizens of the United States next spring, and they have been working with our tribe to make sure the members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma are counted accurately this time.

The most important thing we all need to remember is that on race, all Choctaws should put “CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA.”

No other variation will work for the Census Bureau to count us for our tribe. We have already been informed that the document we will be writing on does not allow enough blocks to fill in CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA, but we were told to write the complete title even if we had to use the margins of the paper. Since the forms are all hand-tabulated it won’t matter that

we write outside the boxes – it is just important that we put the full designation CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA.

Each time the U.S. Census takes a count, it seems we are bombarded with education, yet our tribe still ends up undercounted. It will be a challenge to make sure that 2010 is the year that our tribe is correctly counted!

The Census must be done every 10 years, and more than \$400 billion in federal and state funds are allocated to tribes, states and communities based on the data they gather. Some of the funds our tribe receives that is based on census data provides for Indian education, health care and job training. The Census also determines how many seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Please make sure you and your family are counted in 2010. It is in your hands!



**Bryan County Outstanding Elders Willy Walley, Truman Heron, Loraine Blaine and Ernest Hooser attend the grand opening of the new Choctaw Community Center in Durant.**

## Senior citizens are honored generation

*From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton*

Several events I have attended recently have the Choctaw Senior Citizens groups at the forefront. There was standing room only at the opening of the new Community Center in Durant, which will be used every Wednesday to serve lunch to Choctaw elders. More than 200 Bryan County seniors celebrated at the center’s opening with area leaders and tribal employees. Four of the seniors present were former “Outstanding Elders,” a title chosen annually from among all 12 of the Council Districts. Ernest Hooser, Loraine Blaine, Truman Heron and Willy Walley wore their tribal regalia in honor of the occasion.

The very next day, a ribbon was cut at new housing units for senior citizens in Durant. There are 16 new homes at the expanded Independent Living site for elders, with a large



community entertainment area and safe room. The homes I toured were beautiful and ready for people to move in.

I was excited to hear the announcement that the Choctaw Housing Authority has been notified they are going to receive \$8.6 million from the federal government in Recovery Act, or what most of us call stimulus, funds. This \$8.6 million will build about 72 more homes for senior citizens across the Choctaw Nation.

All ages of visitors are going to enjoy the newest facility at the Tribal Capitol Grounds at Tushka Homma – a large

cafeteria that will comfortably seat 400 people. This is a great gathering place during the Labor Day Festival and other events held at our Capitol. The Senior citizens are an honored generation of our tribe and it is great that this air-conditioned area is available for them and all other generations to rest and enjoy a meal.

More homes, new community centers, additional clinics, scholarships and many other services are the reasons the Chief and Council work so many hours to bring economic development to the Choctaw Nation.

## SOSU receives grant to continue Native American program

Southeastern Oklahoma State University will be receiving a federal grant of \$1.16 million over the next four years to continue its Native American Excellence In Education program.

The project, a collaboration between SOSU and the Choctaw Nation, with the support of the local public schools, provides support and training for 12 Native American students in completing a pre-service education program that leads to a Bachelor of Education degree. Students receive additional training and support regarding Native American learning and culture. Participants receive full tuition, fees, books, childcare, laptop computers and living stipends. After graduating, the students teach in schools with at least a 5 percent Native American student population.

The grant comes from the U.S. Department of Education

as part of the Office of Indian Education’s Professional Development program, which trains qualified individuals to become teachers and administrators in Indian communities.

SOSU and The Choctaw Nation received the initial Native American Excellence In Education grant in 2005. This grant renewal will allow a new cohort of students to participate in the program.

“There is a large population of Native American students in Southeastern Oklahoma, and a disproportionate number of Native American teachers. The scholarships offered through this grant provide a tremendous opportunity to graduate teachers who can serve as role models to children of the same ethnicity,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

“This grant demonstrates the strong partnership that exists between Southeastern and

the Choctaw Nation and the shared commitment to provide opportunities for a quality education,” said Dr. Larry Minks, interim president of Southeastern. “This program has already proven to be very successful and of great benefit to our students, schools, and communities. It’s a win-win situation for everyone involved.”

Serving as project director and principal investigator of the grant program is Chris Wesberry. Wesberry is an Academic Advisor who coordinates services in the Native American Center for Student Success. Co-principal investigators were Dr. Charles Weiner, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Tim Boatmun, Associate Dean of Academic Services.

Involved in the original grant from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma were John Jackson, Angel Rowland, and Dana Bonham.

## A lesson on Sowing and Reaping

We thank God for another year of abundant blessing for our Choctaw Nation. He is faithful to keep His promise given in First Corinthians 3:14.

Today we turn to the third chapter of First Corinthians for our lesson on Sowing and Reaping.

Three different kinds of men have been presented in First Corinthians. In chapters one and two we read about the spiritual man.

In the latter part of the second chapter we learn some things about the unsaved man whom Paul calls the natural man.

Chapter three tells us about the carnal man, the man who is born again but who lets his life be controlled by the desires of the flesh and by the reasoning of men rather than by the Spirit of God.

In the first four verses of chapter three we learn that Paul could not teach the deep things of God to these people because of their carnality. He had to feed them Spiritual milk instead of Spiritual meat. Paul said the marks of carnality are envy, strife, divisions, factions, jealousies and quarreling.

Having accused them of carnality because of their divisions, Paul presented another question. He asked in verse 5 of chapter 3:

“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?”

It seems as though Paul was saying, “God has used us as His ministers, but who are we? We are mere servants to whom the Lord has given a ministry.”

Then he added in verse 6, “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”

Paul planted the seed and Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. Paul and Apollos were merely instruments in God’s hands.

We might plant in our garden but nothing would grow unless God caused the germ to sprout, the rain to water, and the sun to shine. God gives the increase.

Paul had planted the seed of Spiritual truth in the hearts of these Corinthians. Apollos had watered that truth, but God caused the spiritual growth in



**Rev. Bertram Bobb Tribal Chaplain**

the heart of each Christian.

Weeds and thorns represent sin. When weeds get into a field, the plants cannot grow properly. When sin gets into the life of a Christian, spiritual growth is hindered.

God wants to use us, but He cannot do so until we allow Him to take away the sin. Our lives must also be saturated with the Word. When the weeds, thorns, and thistles of sin in our lives are removed God can give growth to our spiritual lives.

We read in verse 8 of First Corinthians chapter 3:

“Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one ...”

This means that they have a unity of purpose. Christians are not to be rivals. There should be no rivalry among Christians. They should have one purpose of heart and mind.

God calls different ones to different fields – evangelists, missionaries, pastors and teachers. And they should not be rivals. Each person has a particular calling to do, each one has his own place.

Some plant the seed of God’s Word, and others water it.

Perhaps you have watered the seed that another has sown, or perhaps you have sown the seed, while others watered it and reaped the fruit. Whether or not God will allow us to reap the fruit is not important. The important thing is that God

gave the increase even though there are different types of ministries, we have one purpose and one goal.

We are working together with Him. It is very important that we understand this truth. We read in verse 9, “For we are laborers together with God ...” When we labor with Him, life will take on a new meaning.

What a privilege to be laborers together with God! He has given us His work and power and strength with which to do it. He gives us His Word, His love, His grace, and even Himself – all that we need to do His work.

Here we have before us truths of what can be done and what is being done in our Christian life.

If we will listen and follow God carefully and obediently He will bless us abundantly. That is what God wants you to do.

If you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you can do that, by faith, even right now. You can pray something like this: “Dear God, I realize I am a sinner, I receive Jesus as my Savior.” Will you do that?

The Apostle Paul wrote in First Corinthians 15:1-4:

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

“By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

Jesus said, “... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

As you pray, remember to pray for America and its leaders, and pray for our brave men and women in service. May God bless you now in my prayer.

## Openings continued from Page 1

for elderly Choctaw. The facilities are adjacent to 10 Independent Elderly Living Community homes at the intersection of Choctaw Road and Cale Switch Road.

The Choctaw Housing Authority received grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Multi-Family Division of Public Housing, in the amount of \$1,204,600 and \$75,100 for the project. The two apartment complexes, containing eight units each, expand the tribe’s supply of affordable housing with supportive services for eligible Choctaw senior citizens.

The third building, a common area for those living in the community, includes a large, nicely furnished lounge area, a kitchen, washers and dryers, and a safe room. Randei Avants is the site manager.

The residents will be able to join in more activities including working out with a new Wii system, accessing the Internet, or just watching TV.



**Zelda Bruno, Nadine Parker and Della Roach check out a new apartment at the Independent Living Community. The three also attended grand opening festivities at Durant’s new Choctaw Community Center the day before.**

# Choctaw Nation WIC offering new food items

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma announces they have gone “live” with the new foods on the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program. In August, Oklahoma was one of the first states to begin offering the new foods, which includes baby food in addition to formula, which is what families have been accustomed to receiving for their babies with vouchers from WIC.

“Our 10-month-old got formula, cereal, fruits and vegetables,” said Julie Polk, who has two grandchildren currently on the program. “This is a great financial help to us – formula alone would cost us almost \$15 a can if we had to purchase it!”

Brenda Wilson also has two babies receiving Choctaw WIC vouchers, a 1-month old and a 10-month-old. The smaller child receives formula, and the older child receives the formula, cereal, fruits and vegetables. “I am proud that my children are able to participate in this nutrition program so that their diet can be as healthy as possible.”

Choctaw WIC Director Claudene Williams said, “We ended last year with 3,600 on our WIC program, and we have grown to 4,200. This may be partly due to the economy, but is also a reflection of the accessibility of the Choctaw WIC program.”

Choctaw Nation joined with USDA Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Under Secretary Kevin Concannon as he helped Oklahoma roll out the improved selection of foods for WIC clients with a press conference in Oklahoma City on August 19 at the Homeland Grocery Store, 9225 N. May Ave.

Speakers for the program included State Representative Al McAffrey, State WIC Director Terry Bryce, Oklahoma Deputy Commissioner of Health and State Health Officer Dr. Edd Rhoades and Choctaw Nation WIC Director Claudene Williams.

Oklahoma is two months ahead of the national deadline for introducing the new food package to WIC clients.



Joy Endres, Chickasaw Nation WIC Deputy Director; Terry Bryce, Oklahoma State WIC Director; Melinda Newport, Chickasaw Nation WIC Director; Claudene Williams, Choctaw Nation WIC Director; and Shelly Rector, Choctaw Nation Computer Specialist; Carol Jared, WCD WIC Director; Candace Vardell, Muscogee Creek Nation WIC Vendor Manager.

## WIC encourages parents to let children help cook

Choctaw Nation WIC is proud to be a part of the new food package changes that are going on in WIC. Watch for recipes for the next couple of months that can be used with the new items! Have your children help with cooking as often as possible.

### Bean up quesadillas

Place a whole wheat or corn tortilla in a small pan. Sprinkle with canned beans and shredded or sliced cheese.

Heat on the stove until the cheese melts.


Slice into pie-shaped pieces and serve. (Add chopped tomatoes, onions and avocado, if desired, after heating.) Great for snacks, breakfast, dinner – anytime!

### Broccoli – Children love to eat what they help prepare

Put a small amount of olive oil in a small spray bottle. Have your child lightly spray cooked broccoli with olive oil. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Makes a wonderful snack!

### Eggs – This 3-minute recipe is perfect for breakfast, meals and snacks

Crack hard-cooked eggs and



## 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

smash them with a fork. Add 1 teaspoon mustard and/or 1 teaspoon mayonnaise. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Spread on crackers or bread for a tasty sandwich.

### Milk – Color milk fun!

Make a glass of milk fun by stirring in one drop of yellow

food coloring to make Sun Fun milk, one drop of blue food coloring for Jungle Juice, or one drop of green food coloring to make Dinosaur Delight. Adding color to milk can also make a great game when you ask what other food items are yellow, or green, or blue?

### Oranges – Children love to make fruit kabobs

Cut oranges and other fruit like bananas and grapes into bite-sized pieces. Arrange fruit on a piece of uncooked spaghetti or thin wooden stick. Great snack or dessert!  
Courtesy of Mass. WIC

## Tips to keep baby safe

By Ashley Norris, AFL

Here are some safety tips to keep your precious little one safe from harm.

- Keep your baby doctor’s phone number posted by the phone for emergencies.

- Never leave your baby alone on a bed, couch, or other place where she could fall.

- In a bath - babies can drown in one inch of water, or

- In a car - babies can suffocate in hot cars.

- Keep small objects that could cause choking out of baby’s reach.

- Check toys and stuffed animals to make sure there are no small pieces that could come off.

- Always check the temperature of your baby’s bath water before bathing her. If your hands are full you can stick your elbow in the water to check it.

- Never carry coffee or other hot beverages while holding your baby.

- Keep your baby away from pets and other animals.

- Protect your baby’s skin and eyes from sunburn by shading her from the sun.

- Place baby’s crib away from window curtains or blinds – the cords can strangle her.

- Keep fluffy comforters, pillows, and stuffed animals out of baby’s crib – they can block baby’s breathing.

### Healthy things to do for your newborn

Dress baby comfortably for the temperature of the room or outside. If you need a sweater, baby needs a sweater or blanket, too. If you feel warm, baby may be too warm to be wrapped in blankets. Don’t make the room too warm at night. Overheating could cause sudden infant death.

- Don’t let anyone smoke around your baby-even second-hand smoke can hurt your baby.

- Protect you baby from germs and illness. Keep away from sick people and crowds as much as possible. Wash your hands frequently, and ask others to wash their hands before touching your baby.

- While breastfeeding, everything you eat or drink goes to the baby. Eat a healthy diet and avoid junk foods. Check with your doctor before taking any medications, even aspirin, and say no to all drugs.



Become a

## Choctaw Nation Foster Family

By becoming a Choctaw Nation foster family you will serve as a temporary parent to a child or children placed in your home. You will provide for their basic needs, food, shelter, clothing and safety. You will help maintain their social and cultural customs.

### Basic Requirements:

- You can be single or married.
- You or your spouse must be an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
- You must be at least 21 years of age.
- You must have the emotional, physical and financial abilities to provide for a child’s needs.
- You must reside within Choctaw Nation’s 10 1/2 counties.

### What is the certification process?

- You complete a resource family application.
- A child welfare specialist will visit you and your household to conduct a home study. You and your family will be interviewed. Your home will be inspected to make sure it is an adequate place for foster care.
- You will be fingerprinted and a background check will be done on all adult members of the household.
- Four personal references you provide will be contacted and interviewed.
- You will submit a physical exam form signed by your own current doctor.
- You must attend pre-service training.

### The need for Choctaw Foster Parents

Many of our Choctaw children are in need of stable homes and families. It is for these children that we need you to become a foster parent. We need your help to grow, teach and love these children. For more information on becoming a foster parent, please contact our office:

**Children and Family Services**  
**PO Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702**  
**Attn: Lari Ann Brister**  
**800-522-6170 ext. 2635 • lbrister@choctawnation.com**

## NURSERY NEWS

### Braxton Joseph Bedford

Braxton Joseph Bedford was born at 11:05 p.m. on April 3, 2009. He weighed 6.5 pounds and was 19.1 inches long. His “ecstatically proud parents” are Anthony Cordell and Melinda Lee Bedford of Adamson, Oklahoma. A very proud uncle, Michael J.T. Bedford of Adamson, and some proud grandparents, Raeburn Eugene and Angela Kay Bedford, all want to welcome him to the family.



### Elizabeth Kay Bedford

Elizabeth Kay Bedford was born at 3:53 p.m. on May 22, 2009. She was 7 pounds 12.7 ounces, and 19.4 inches long. Her excited parents are Brian Steven and Miranda Ann Bedford of Alderson, Oklahoma. A very happy uncle, Michael J.T. Bedford of Adamson, very excited grandparents, Raeburn Eugene and Angela Kay Bedford and Douglas Wayne Johnson of Alderson and Retaund Devon Willet of Louisiana, all want Elizabeth to know they are happy to finally see her in person. Welcome to the family!



### Lucia Catherine Brown

Lucia Catherine Brown was born on June 9, 2009. Proud parents are Jon Nelson and Courtney Brown of Oklahoma City. She has two big brothers of the home, Craig and Dylan. Her proud grandparents are the late Catherine Nelson and Francis and Lucretia Brown of Oklahoma City. She has an uncle and aunt of Virginia, Steve and Karianne Moore, an Uncle Joe of Minnesota and Uncle Jim of Shawnee, Oklahoma. She has many cousins from Oklahoma and two from Virginia. She was welcomed home by her favorite cousin, Elizabeth.



### Alexandria Jean LeBar

Alexandria Jean LeBar was born on June 15, 2009, in Round Rock, Texas, to Andrea and Timothy LeBar. She weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces and was 18 inches long. She was welcomed by her brother, Daniel; grandparents, Judy and Roy Christian; Aunt Stephanie Christian, Uncle Roarke Christian, and great-grandmother, Eloise Christian.



### Ava Kreszentia Lavan

Ava Kreszentia Lavan was born at 5:19 p.m. on June 27, 2009. Proud parents are Heidi and Joseph Lavan. She weighed in at 8 pounds 6 ounces and 21.5 inches long.



### Moses Lance Edward Maytubby

Moses Lance Edward Maytubby was born at 7:24 a.m. on June 27, 2009, at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long. Proudly welcoming him home are proud parents Melissa and Vince Maytubby and big sister Emily Kay.



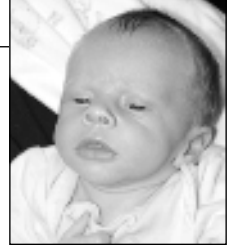
### Lily Paige Parker

Jacky and Leslie Parker of McAlester are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Lily Paige Parker, born at 8:25 a.m. on July 6, 2009, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. Grandparents are Eddie and Patricia Parker and Allen and Doris Nixon, all of McAlester. Great-grandparents include Zetta Mae and the late Leo Sennett of McAlester, Cleo and the late Doris Nixon of McAlester, the late Pauline Parker of Pittsburg, and the late Bill and Clara Hacker of McAlester. Lily has two brothers, Brant and Jakeb.



### Justin Thomas Sedam Jr.

Justin Thomas Sedam Jr. was born July 24, 2009, weighing 6 pounds 8 ounces. Parents are Brandy Heflin and Justin Thomas Sedam Sr.





# Princess bids farewell



**Halito!**  
I would like to invite you all to the 2009-2010 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant and Labor Day Festival. I hope each and every one of you make plans to attend the festival, which begins on Thursday night with our annual Princess Pageant and concludes on Monday afternoon with Chief Pyle’s State of the Nation Address.

I am Dayla Ranae Amos. On August 28, 2008, God blessed me with the opportunity of a lifetime. That night, I was crowned Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma 2008-2009. This past year has helped me to grow in many ways. I have learned a lot about our culture and heritage and was able to be involved in ribbon cuttings, ground breakings, Choctaw weddings, and other ceremonies that I will never forget. I have enjoyed meeting new people and traveling to many places in the hope that I have raised our cultural awareness while representing our tribe to the best of my ability.

I would like to thank God for taking me on a beautiful journey and for holding my hand every step of the way. To my parents, grandparents, extended family and friends thanks for always being there, never letting me give up and for believing in me and pushing me to do my absolute best. I love you all very much and words can not express how much each of you means to me. To Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and the Tribal Council, Thank you for giving young ladies an opportunity to serve as an active part of the tribe, while being a positive role model. To Leigh, Trina and the pageant staff, Thank you for all the hard work and dedication you put into the pageant to make it successful. To Lucille Olive and Wallace Tushka, Thank you for my exquisite Choctaw beadwork you take the time to make for me. To Shirley Barboan, Thank you for making all of my beautiful dresses. Kanda and Cheyenne, I hope your year has been as memorable as mine has been. Thank you for all the laughs and smiles you brought to our travels. It was truly an honor to serve as princess with the both of you.

To the contestants in this year’s pageant, I offer you my favorite quote. Stephenie Meyer, author of Twilight, once wrote, “When life gives you a dream so far beyond any of your expectations, it is not reasonable to grieve when it comes to an end.” Whether you walk off the stage wearing the crown or not, keep your heads held high. You are a princess because of the strength, determination and courage you have as a Choctaw woman. You are all beautiful young ladies and I would like to thank each of you and your families for taking the time to take part in a great experience.

To the next Miss Choctaw Nation, I would like to wish you all the best and good luck. I hope your year will be as memorable as mine has been. Take this opportunity to not only learn more about our tribe, but to learn more about yourself. You will find it a blessing to be able to serve our tribe with such an honor. I have learned being Miss Choctaw Nation is more than holding a prestigious title and wearing a crown, it is about setting an example for the younger generation and being someone they can look up to. Whether by simply taking the time to take a picture with someone, ask a name, or say hello, having the chance to put a smile on a child’s face is an amazing feeling you will truly cherish. I hope you enjoy every moment of your reign.

It is an honor to have accomplished my childhood dream, which was to have held the titles of Little Miss, Junior Miss, and Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

This has been an experience of a lifetime I will truly treasure forever.

I am your 2008-2009 Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Dayla Ranae Amos, and it is my distinguished honor to bid you my farewell.

## Folsom family holds centennial reunion

By Brenda Ivie

The Folsom Family Association of America held their centennial family reunion from July 29 through August 2, 2009, in Exeter, New Hampshire. The family has had annual reunions since they created the association in 1909.



John and Mary Foulsham (Folsom) arrived in America from England in 1638, on the ship “Diligent.” They eventually settled in Exeter, New Hampshire. The American Independence Museum in Exeter is housed in the former Folsom Tavern, built by Samuel Folsom in 1775, which was often used as a meeting place to discuss breaking ties with the English king and his authority.

Nathaniel Folsom was born in 1756 in Rowan County North Carolina. He left North Carolina with his father to begin trading with the Choctaws in Mississippi at the age of 19. He later married Choctaw sisters, Iahnecha and Ainechihoyo, by whom he fathered 24 children. As a result of his large family, there are many Choctaw descendants of the Folsom family.

If you are descended from the Folsom family, you might like to visit the Folsom Family Association web site at, folsomfamily.com., and if you are also Choctaw, you will undoubtedly find Harry Folsom’s web site very interesting, www.folsomfamily.org/harry/choctaw.

A wise person once said, “You don’t know where you are going in life, until you understand where you came from.” Our heritage is important, no matter who we are. It is not good to live in the past, but it is good to know what our past holds and how we came to be the person we are today.

## Santrach participates in NASA program

Rayda Santrach, currently of Rancho Cucamonga, California, was recently selected to participate in a NASA airborne science research mission (Airborne Research Experience for Educators). She will be a member of a team of 10 educators selected from around the country to collect in-flight sensor data of air, land, and sea during two 5- or 6-hour flights aboard a NASA DC-8 aircraft. The aircraft, located at Dryden Aircraft Operations Facility in Palmdale is a flying laboratory used for Earth science observation, satellite verification, and sensor development. Two instruments integrated into the aircraft’s test racks will collect sensor data for research in crop classification, algal blooms, and atmospheric science, important components in understanding Earth System Science. To complement the data collection process, results will be compared with data collected from scientific modeling, in-situ ocean sampling, and a satellite Sensor Web. The program will culminate with the team of educators developing curriculum-based activities resulting from their observations and experiences during the six-week program.

Rayda is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She attended Ada High School then went on to earn a degree in chemistry from ECU and a master’s degree in teleprocessing science from the University of Southern Mississippi. After serving for eight years in the USAF, she returned to teaching secondary science and math. She appreciates the opportunities NASA provides educators. She currently teaches 18- to 21-year-old incarcerated gang members for the California Department of Corrections. She uses space science and astronomy to help refocus and redirect their lives.



## Student selected to attend AIM

Betty-Rose Santrach was selected to attend the week-long 2009 Academy Introduction Mission (AIM) Summer Program at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. AIM will introduce her to all aspects of cadet life. She will be working with Coast Guard officers, cadets, and faculty who will show her what being a member of the Coast Guard is all about.

By the end of the week, during which she will be challenged both mentally and physically, she will know if the Academy’s distinctive education experience is right for her. In June 2010, after she graduates from high school in Rancho Cucamonga, California, she aspires to earn an electrical engineering degree from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

This opportunity is open to all high school juniors that apply.



# Bearing the torch

Rolling Thunder Across America Operation carried the flame from Barstow, California, to Washington, D.C., by motorcycle. When the torch made its stop in El Reno, it was passed among the veterans while the names of fallen soldiers were read by El Reno school children. Choctaw Nation tribal member Jordan Weese, 9, is being passed the torch by Shirley Evans of Arapaho with 4465 Ladies’ Auxiliary. Jordan is the youngest Senior Princess Veterans of Foreign Wars of the USA Post 4465, Clinton, Oklahoma. Jordan has held this title since the age of 10 months, when she was elected. Jordan hopes to travel to Washington, D.C., to see the Vietnam Memorial Wall where 58,256 soldiers’ names are memorialized. Jordan’s parents are Michael and Brandi Weese of Burns Flat. Her grandparents are Melvin and JoAnn Weese of Cordell and great-grandmother is Mary Wesley of Cordell.



## Miss International Jr. Miss

Brooke Harris, Ada, was crowned July 12, 2009, as Miss International Junior Miss at the Linda Chapin Theater in Orlando, Florida. The International Junior Miss Scholarship Pageant is a program organized to encourage positive achievement by helping nurture and build self awareness on our youth and young women of today. Title competitions included interview, fun fashion, and evening attire. Brooke also competed in several optional categories. She won the photo shoot, commercial, casual wear and was first runner-up in talent and Spokes model. Brooke is the daughter of Captain Teri Scroggins, England, and Tim and Trisha Harris.



## August Bow Shoot winners announced

Winners of the Choctaw Nation’s August Bow Shoot are:

Age 5 and under: 1st, Calvin Palmer; 2nd, Taloa Raven.

Age 6-8: 1st, Andrew Amos; 2nd, Blaine Bonham; 3rd, Waylon Davis.

Women 20 and over: 1st, Pam Waugh; 2nd, Becky Gurganus; 3rd, Beloved Sharp.

Men 20 and over: 1st, Jamie Houser; 2nd, Al Gurganus; 3rd, Jody Waugh.

The Bow Shoot is held every second Saturday on the grounds at Tushka Homma.



## Sustaining our traditions, our people, our earth



Recycling turns materials that would otherwise become waste into valuable resources. Collecting used bottles, cans, and newspapers and taking them to the curb or to a collection facility is just the first in a series of steps that generates a host of financial, environmental, and social returns. Some of these benefits accrue locally as well as globally.

### Benefits of Recycling

Recycling protects and expands U.S. manufacturing jobs and increases U.S. competitiveness.

Recycling reduces the need for landfilling and incineration.

Recycling prevents pollution caused by the manufacturing of products from virgin materials.

Recycling saves energy.

Recycling decreases emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change.

Recycling conserves natural resources such as timber, water, and minerals.

Recycling helps sustain the environment for future generations.

# Choctaw Nation Diabetes 5k Run/Walk

No Registration Fee!!!

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Diabetes is one of the most common and serious chronic diseases in the United States. Even if you don't have diabetes, chances are you know someone who does. Almost 24 million Americans have diabetes, and 1 million more are diagnosed every year. Together, let's battle diabetes and win!

The 5k event will be held during the Tali hina Chamber of Commerce Fall Foliage Festival in Tali hina, Okla. The course is USATF certified. Medals will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers in each age group for the 5k event. In addition, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place overall male and female finishers will receive a trophy. **Registration begins at 9 a.m.** at the Victory Baptist Church parking lot on 5th and Isherwood. Pre-registered participants will receive a T-shirt, onsite registration T-shirts will be based on availability. **Race starts at 10 a.m.** We will also have door prizes after the awards are given.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Race day age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt: Adult – Sm. Med. Lg. XL 2X 3X T-shirt: Youth – Sm. Med. Lg XL

Circle one: 5k Run/Walk 1 mile fun run/walk

**Deadline date: October 16, 2009.** After deadline date please register on site.  
Register by mail before deadline date. Mail to:  
**Choctaw Nation Wellness Education, One Choctaw Way, Tali hina, OK 74571**

Waiver of Liability: I know that the event is held on a road that is traveled on by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and responsibility for my safety. I hereby waive all claims that I or my estate have against any persons of entities involved in organizing, conducting or supporting this event for any injury of loss I might suffer even if injury of loss was caused by the negligence of those parties. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photograph of me or my child in promotional posters, brochures and newspaper articles.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian if under 18 years of age

For more information, call Choctaw Nation Wellness Education at 800-349-7026, ext. 6044 or 6958 or e-mail dgward@cnhsa.com.  
SPONSORED BY: Choctaw Nation Wellness Education and Diabetes Wellness Center.



## Saturday, October 3

### NO REGISTRATION FEE!

Donations will be accepted for the Honobia Festival onsite at registration table.

The 2009 Bigfoot Festival will be held October 3 at the Kiamichi Mountain Mission Camp Grounds at the intersection of the Indian Trail Highway and State Highway 144, Honobia, Oklahoma. Enjoy Bigfoot stories, live music, arts & crafts, pony rides, 4-wheeler runs, and so much more!

- 5k run or 1 mile fun run/walk
- Race day registration begins at 8 a.m. at intersection of Indian Trail Highway and State Highway 144. Race begins at 9 a.m.
- Pre-registered participants will receive T-shirt • Onsite participants will receive T-shirt based on availability
- Awards for 5k participants only – 1st, 2nd and 3rd place male and female in each category (5-year age groups). Also 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals for overall male and female
- Register by mail no later than September 23, 2009 • After September 23, you MUST register onsite!
- Contact Choctaw Nation at 800-349-7026, ext. 644 or 6958. • Course certified by Glen's Road Race
- 5k course will consist of a 1-mile dirt road – challenging course!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Race day age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**T-shirt: Adult – Sm. Med. Lg. XL 2X 3X T-shirt: Youth – Sm. Med. Lg XL**

**Circle one: 5k Run/Walk 1 mile fun run/walk**

Waiver of Liability: I know that the event is held on a road that is traveled on by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and responsibility for my safety. I hereby waive all claims that I or my estate have against any persons of entities involved in organizing, conducting or supporting this event for any injury of loss I might suffer even if injury of loss was caused by the negligence of those parties. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photograph of me or my child in promotional posters, brochures and newspaper articles.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian if under 18 years of age

**Mail registration form to: Choctaw Nation Wellness Department, One Choctaw Way, Tali hina OK 74571**  
Sponsored by Choctaw Nation Wellness Department/REACH US program



PEOPLE YOU KNOW

‘It was “game on” when you walked out’

By Travis J. Tritten,  
Stars and Stripes

Reprinted with permission

Lt. Col. Tray “Tonto” Ardesse comes from a long line of warriors and a tradition at least as old as his Marine Corps.

Ardesse’s Choctaw Indian ancestors fought alongside George Washington and passed unbreakable code for the U.S. military during two world wars.

He credits his tough Native American frame for taking a five-ounce chunk of shrapnel and not shutting down during a 2006 ambush in Iraq’s Anbar province.

Instead, he called in an air-strike and returned fire, moves that helped get wounded troops to safety.

For his actions, Ardesse, commanding officer of Headquarters Squadron at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in Japan, earned the Bronze Star with “V” device.

The medal came with a sharp, orderly ceremony at the air station in December. But the scene in western Iraq during the summer of 2006 could not have been more different.

Ardesse was sent to the region as an individual augmentee. The McAlester, Oklahoma, native was attached to a special task force that spent the next few months running secretive missions in the dan-

Lt. Col.  
Tray  
“Tonto”  
Ardesse  
speaks to  
Marines  
at Marine  
Corps Air  
Station  
Iwakuni,  
Japan.



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

gerous areas west of Baghdad.

The work was sensitive and the area was hostile, said Ardesse, who was a fire-support coordinator and forward air controller. When things got hot, it was his job to radio for artillery or air support.

“It was a tough time for the military. We had kind of put the surge in place, but like everything else in life, sometimes when you put pressure, it gets more difficult,” he said. “It was ‘game on’ when you walked out of your base camp,” noting that it was common to take sniper fire right out of the gate.

One night at the end of June, task force leaders decided to send a foot patrol into the Anbar farmlands. There had been reports of nighttime activity in the area, and the team hoped to gather intelligence for further operations, Ardesse said.

“It was going to be a reconnaissance patrol. We thought we would sneak out and see

what was going on,” he said. “Somebody was watching the base and caught us leaving.”

It was just before midnight when Ardesse got an uneasy feeling, a kind of sixth-sense tingle.

The attack opened with the detonation of a homemade bomb — artillery shells buried in an embankment. The blast shot shrapnel through the air and seemed to slow down time, Ardesse said.

The unit’s corpsman and communication specialists were hit, and a piece of metal tore into Ardesse’s shoulder, breaking it before lodging in his shoulder blade.

“I came back to my senses, and there was a lot of gunfire and people fighting,” said Ardesse, who was knocked off his feet.

There was an indescribable ringing in his ears, and his nose was bleeding.

Attackers bore down with small-arms fire, while a mem-

ber of the unit tried to suppress the fire with an M-240 medium machine gun, he recounted.

Ardesse called to his dazed radio operator to get ready. He requested a fire-support mission from an artillery battery, followed by close air support from F-16 jets.

Meanwhile, he and the rest of his unit kept up the fight.

“My arm just wouldn’t work very well. It was kind of stuck to my side,” he said. “I had an M-4, so it wasn’t really heavy, and I could prop it with my other arm.”

Ardesse said the firefight against about a platoon of insurgents lasted about 40 minutes. It is unknown how many of the attackers were killed, he said.

“It was going back and forth. We were gaining fire superiority with machine guns,” he said. “We didn’t stay behind. At the end, we had to get out of there.”

Ardesse spent six months recovering from his shattered shoulder.

He said he had been promoted in rank the day of the attack and returned to Iraq in 2007 as a lieutenant colonel.

Meanwhile, back home in McAlester, his actions of 2006 didn’t go unnoticed.

“All the Choctaw Americans are proud I am carrying on the warrior tradition,” he said.

Happy 35th birthday

Happy 35th birthday to Tim Rickey on July 20 from Grandma Tallant of Bakersfield, California, Mom and Dave of Joplin, Missouri, wife, Tresa; daughters, Ocean and Cheyann of St. Clair, Missouri; sister, Dezirai and husband Bill Witt of Talihina, brother, Kenny Rickey of Joplin, Missouri; nephew, Jack Daniels of Talihina, Levi Rupe of Joplin, Mathew, Brandon and Blake Witt of Joplin, and neice Alisha Valentine of Joplin.



Brandon is 10

Happy 10th birthday Brandon Witt on August 12 from dad, Bill and Dezirai Witt of Talihina; brothers, Jack Daniels of Talihina, Matt, Blake Witt of Joplin, Missouri; sister, Alisha Valentine of Joplin; Nephews, Jayden, Natelie, Madison and Tyson Witt of Joplin; Grandma Betty Witt of Joplin; Grandma and Grandpa, Joyce and Dave of Joplin; Great Grandma Ann Tallant of Bakersfeild, California; Uncle Terry Witt of Joplin; Uncle Tim and Aunt Teresa and cousins Ocean and Cheyann Rickey of St. Clair, Missouri; and Uncle Kenny and cousin Levi Rickey of Joplin.



Cheyann celebrates 12th

Happy 12th birthday to Cheyann Rickey on August 21 from Dad and Mom, Tim and Teresa, and sister, Ocean Rickey, of St Clair Missouri; Great-Grandma Ann Tallant of Bakersfield, California; Grandma and Pa, Joyce and Dave of Joplin, Missouri; Aunt Dezirai and Uncle Bill Witt of Talihina and cousins Jack Daniels of Talihina, Matt, Brandon, Blake Witt, Alisha Valentine of Joplin; and Uncle Kenny and cousin Levi Rickey of Joplin.



Family celebrates birthday

Raeburn and Angela Bedford wish to say happy birthday to youngest son Michael J.T. Bedford on July 22, oldest son Anthony C. Bedford on September 12 and daughter-in-law Melinda Lee Bedford on September 7. Happy birthday from Mom and Dad.

Happy birthday

I would like to wish my daughter Stacey Jefferson McAmis a happy birthday and my grandson Tyler McAmis a happy 12th birthday. Both are July birthdays. Her sister, brothers, aunt and uncle wish them many happy years. Stacey is the daughter of Jackie Jefferson of Paris, Texas. They are descendants of the late Emmitt and Louise Jefferson and the late Bessie Bond and Johnny Jefferson.



Happy birthday to the Crain boys

Happy birthday to the Crain boys, the Mutton Buster Brothers. They are great-grandson of Emma Mae Ervin original Choctaw enrollee and grandson of Betty and Arnold Crain of Hugo. They are the sons of Wayne and Kelly Crain of Texas. The boys won at the 21 first Fallfest and we are mighty proud of our fellows.



Happy fifth birthday

Happy birthday wishes to Macey McAmis of Paris, Texas. She turned 5 on May 9. Her proud parents are Matt and Stacey Jefferson McAmis. Macey’s grandmother is Jackie Jefferson; great-grandparents are Mary and Emmitt Jefferson; Stazha also wishes happy birthday to her cousin as well as all her aunts and uncles, all of Paris.



Happy eighth birthday

Melody Rayne Thorne celebrated her eighth birthday at Sea World in San Antonio, Texas, on July 21 with her parent and sisters. Melody is the granddaughter of Gene and LaHoma Murphy Crauthers of Oklahoma City and the great-grandchild of the late William and Ella Murphy of Idabel.



Happy 60th birthay

Wishing our mom, Gwynn Parker, a happy birthday! She will be turning 60 on September 21! Gwynn lives in Hugo. We miss you, Tam-mie and Mary!



Happy ninth birthday

Jera JuliAnne Davis of Texarkana, Texas, celebrated her ninth birthday on June 27. She is the daughter of Keith and Sharon Davis. Her grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel. Her great-grandmother is Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



Happy second birthday

Happy second birthday to Hannah Elu Storie on June 16. Hannah’s parents are Jeff and Darlen Storie of Dallas, Texas. Her grandparents are Betty Work Farris of Farris and the late Paul Mayo of Atoka, Larry Storie of Maryville, Tennessee, and Nancy Bale of Clarksville, Indiana.



Baseball champs

Louisiana State champions! Hunter Lansdell from Horatio traveled to Alexandria, Louisana with his Xplosion 11 AAA baseball team over the week-end. They were undefeated throughout the tournament. Hunter Lansdell pitched the championship game.



Happy birthday

Bobby and Alfred Alley are celebrating their second and first year of life. Both boys were born on August 28. The boys’ proud parents are Alfred and Dalia Alley.



Happy 84th birthday!!

Happy 84th birthday to Grandma Tallant on July 17, from daughter Joyce and Dave of Joplin, Missouri; granddaughter, Dezirai and Bill Witt of Talihina; grandson, Tim and Tresa Rickey of St. Clair, Missouri, and Kenny Rickey of Joplin; great-grandson, Jack Daniels of Talihina; great-granddaughter, Ocean and Cheyann Rickey, St Clair, and Alisha Valentine and great-grandsons, Levi Rickey, Matt Witt, Brandon Witt and Blake Witt, all of Joplin.

Happy 93rd birthday!!

Happy birthday to Aaron Baker who turns 93 this month. Aaron was born September 24, 1916, in Battiest where he has lived all of his life. His parents, Robinson and Enettie Noah Winship Baker, were Choctaw original enrollees. Aaron is the only surviving member of a family of six brothers and two sisters.



A retired forest ranger since 1978, Aaron used to carve wood handles out of hickory for hammers, axes and garden tools for friends and family. He is currently the oldest Choctaw living in the Bethel-Battiest area. Still living on two acres of the original land allotted to his father, Aaron’s home sits above Glover River which he can see from his kitchen window, especially when the river is high. He enjoys spending his days sitting outside watching birds, squirrels, rabbits, and just enjoying nature. He also takes short walks with his dog, Shaq.

Aaron and his late wife, Juanita Billy Baker, had eight children. Six are still living, two of whom live in Battiest and visit him often. He has 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

68th anniversary

Joseph and Jessie Dick celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on March 9, 2009, in San Jose, California, where they have lived for the last 33 years. Joseph Dick also celebrated his 92nd birthday on August 7, 2009. Joseph and Jessie both are originally from Coalgate.



Golden anniversary

James and Sharon Womack of Hackett, Arkansas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 15, 2009, at Amity Fellowship Hall, Amity Church in Hackett. They were married on August 17, 1959, in Visalia, California. They are the owners of Womack Fence Company in Hackett. They have three children, Pamela of Checotah, Sherry and Kenneth, both of Greenwood, Arkansas. They have nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Couple celebrates life’s milestones

The Folsom family is celebrating Victor Harold Folsom’s 86th birthday and the 60th wedding anniversary of marriage to Frieda Louise Porter in September, 2009.



Vic was born on his family’s Indian land allotment in Caddo, Oklahoma on October 24, 1923 to original enrollee, Victor Econa Folsom and Ethel Pherigo. His grandparents were Choctaw Circuit Judge Loring Samuel William Folsom and Katie Freeman.

The family moved to Texas and then lived in the San Diego, California, in 1929 to 1930 and then again from 1942 until the present time. Vic served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a radioman in Admiral Joy’s staff in China and the Phillipines. He later attended Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas from 1947 through 1950, graduating with a degree in chemistry and math. Vic and Frieda met in 1944 while attending the Linda Vista Baptist Church and married just before his last year of college. He worked as a materials engineer for 43 years and she was an elementary school teacher for 35 years before they retired.

Vic loves growing avocado trees, citrus trees and tomatoes and likes to keep a few head of cattle whenever possible. He enjoys telling Choctaw stories to family and friends.

Your children and grandchildren congratulate you and thank you for all that you’ve done for us! Diana, Bill, Stan, Mary Jayne, Kevin, Samuel and Rebecca.

27th anniversary

Mike and Sandra McLean of Amarillo, Texas, celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary on August 27. Life is sweet!



Celebrating first anniversary

LynThomas Justin and Janie Frances Ann Brooks of Wichita Falls, Texas, celebrated their one year wedding anniversary September 20, 2009. The Brooks were married September 20, 2008, at Central Christian Church in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Lee Hagerman served as maid of honor and Ryan Cain served as best man.



Happy 30th birthday

Happy 30th birthday to Kenny Rickey on September 25 from your son, Levi of Joplin, Missouri; Mom and Stepdad, Joyce and Dave of Joplin; Grandma Ann Tallant of Bakersfeild, California; sister, Dezirai, and brother-in-law, Bill Witt of Talihina; nephews, Jack Daniels of Talihina, Matt, Brandon, Blake Witt of Joplin; niece, Alisha Valentine of Joplin; brother, Tim, sister-in-law, Teresa, and nieces, Ocean and Cheyanne Rickey of St. Clair, Missouri.



Levi turns 4

Happy fourth birthday to Levi Rupe on July 9 from Dad, Kenny Rickey of Joplin, Missouri; Grandma Tallant of Bakersfield, California; Grandma and Pa, Joyce and Dave of Joplin; aunts and uncles, Dezirai and Bill Witt of Talihina, and Tim and Tresa Rickey of St. Clair, Missouri; cousins, Jack Daniels of Talihina, Ocean and Cheyann Rickey of St Clair, Alisha Valentine, and Matt, Brandon and Blake Witt, all of Joplin.





Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins, who spoke at the Poteau Appreciation Dinner, is pictured with Assistant Chief Batton, Chief Pyle and Councilman Delton Cox.



Pictured with Assistant Chief Batton are Linda Mitchell, Ed Mitchell and Patty Gaffney.

## It’s luau time in Poteau



Councilman Delton Cox is pictured with his brothers, Orb Cox, Harold Cox and Jim Cox.



Lt. Governor Askins, District #4 Senior Miss Andrea Ford, District #4 Junior Miss Kacie Raines, state Rep. Neil Brannon and Chief Pyle.



Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton share a laugh with Choctaw elder Elizabeth “Lizzie” Carney.



Enjoying the Hawaiian luau are, left, Tatum Shelton and Emily Rawls. At right is Isabella Cox, granddaughter of Councilman Cox, all dressed up for the festive Hawaiian luau occasion.

## Frequently asked questions of Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership Department

### “What is a CDIB card?”

The Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). It shows your blood degree by tribe, date of birth and the last four digits of your Social Security number. It is signed by a BIA representative.

**“The application for CDIB states that I must provide a birth and/or death certificate for everyone in the lineage. How do I know if the form I have is correct?”**

According to Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regulations, the Tribal Membership/CDIB office needs an original state-certified (full-form) birth and/or death certificate. These are issued through the state’s Department of Vital Statistics office. The Tribal Membership office cannot accept county, city or hospital issued birth certificates. Do not go online for birth certificates.

**“I am applying for a first-time card for myself, child, grandchild, etc. Why am I asked to supply documents on family members who have already received their CDIB cards?”**

At one time, the Tribal Membership/CDIB office was not required to keep copies of these documents on file. They are now required to do so. It is possible that some of the certificates are already on file in the CDIB office. However, if you have received a letter requesting documentation, then they have already researched and do not have them on file.

### “How do I get my CDIB card?”

You must complete a CDIB application and include all birth and/or death certificates on each person in your lineage back to the original enrollee. It is possible that some of the certificates are already on file with the CDIB office. Research is not done by telephone or e-mail. You must mail in the CDIB application.

**“When researching my family roll numbers I came across MCR after the number. What does this mean?”**

MCR stands for Mississippi Choctaw Removed/Rejected and means that at the time the final rolls were closed they were not enrolled. You cannot be issued a CDIB from the BIA with any roll number ending or containing MCR.

**“How long will it take to get my CDIB card after my application has been sent in?”**

Providing that all birth/death certificates are on file, you should receive your CDIB card within 90-120 days.

**“Can I have more than one tribe listed on my CDIB card?”**

Yes, if it is one of the other Five Civilized Tribes (Creek, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Choctaw and Seminole) and you or your parent has already gotten their cards.

**“What is a Tribal Membership?”**

A Tribal Membership card registers you as a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. If you are over the age of 18 years,

you are a voting member. Tribal programs require you to be a tribal member to receive benefits.

**“I am going to be turning 18 next year. How and when do I need to apply for my adult Tribal Membership card?”**

You need to apply six (6) months before you turn 18. Please include your minor card with your application.

**“Can I have membership with more than one tribe?”**

Most tribal constitutions prohibit enrollment with more than one tribe. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s constitution prohibits dual enrollment.

**What is a Photo ID card?”**

This card will have your photo on it, along with your date of birth, Social Security number and degree of Indian blood. The State of Oklahoma recognizes it for state use.

**I don’t live in Oklahoma. How can I get a Photo ID card?”**

We travel to many states to offer you the opportunity of taking your photo. You may also mail in a photo of yourself (mainly head and shoulders, like a passport), a copy of your state birth certificate and a copy of your driver’s license. We must have a copy of your birth certificate on file before we can issue your Photo ID card.

To contact the Tribal Membership/CDIB office, please call 800-522-6170 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



### School of Choctaw Language class in Durant

Completing Phase III of the Choctaw School of Language in Durant are, seated, instructor Ann Kaniatobe, Community Teachers Director Richard Adams, Clara Kaniatobe and Allen Perry; standing are Pat Blagg, DeAnna Moore, Amy Eyachabbe, Sharon McGee, Charisse Ladd, Gaylia Green, Bob Green and Stan Brewer.

### Jacob makes second donation to Locks of Love

Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis.

“I chose to support Locks of Love because of the organization’s mission and because I am capable of donating,” said Audrey Jacob. “There is no fee for donating hair, it only takes time. It’s a small exchange for ultimately making a difference in another person’s life. This is my second hair donation, totaling 27 inches. There are plenty of other people who do the same thing. Rob Maxwell of the Choctaw Housing Authority grows his hair and donates the minimum 10 inches to locks of love. April O’Brien of the Choctaw Nation Payroll department also donates her hair to the organization. There are so many causes. A friend of mine, Victoria Maturino, donated her hair to Pantene’s “Beautiful Lengths” campaign. This campaign is ‘designed to create free, real-hair wigs for women who’ve lost their hair due to cancer.’ All acts of kindness have the potential to impact the life of another person. I’m happy to know so many people have found a cause and continue to choose to make an impact!”

For more information, please visit the following web sites: [www.locksoflove.org](http://www.locksoflove.org) and [www.beautifullengths.com](http://www.beautifullengths.com).



Audrey Jacob

### 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.

### Oklahoma City School of Choctaw Language to resume September 15

The Oklahoma City Community School of Choctaw Language will resume at 7 p.m. on September 15 at the OK Choctaw Alliance Center, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd. The new class, Phase III, is open to adults and high school students. The Chahta Villa Vlheha is open to elementary, middle school and junior high students.

For more information, contact Norris Samuels at 405-672-5653. The phone number for the OK Choctaw Alliance Center is 405-688-4191.

### Fobb/Battiest family reunion

The Fobb/Battiest family reunion will be held October 10-11 in Frederick, Oklahoma. On Saturday, family will meet at 2 p.m. at the Civic Center on 17th Street, next to the city park for a potluck and meet-and-greet. They are looking for anyone related to Eaton Fobb, Louisin Ho-Tambi, Andrew Battiest and Nicy Wall. Please bring any pictures. Contact Cheryl Jessie Stephan, 580-286-3441, [chataci@hotmail.com](mailto:chataci@hotmail.com) for information. Please put in subject line Fobb/Battiest reunion when e-mailing.

### Bell family reunion

The Bell family reunion is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. on October 3 at the Holiday Inn Express in Paris, Texas. There is a block of rooms set aside at the hotel if you would like to make a reservation. For more information, call Marla Bell at 580-482-2566.

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

The first step in the home-buying process is attending a

### Homebuyer Education Class

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

- September 15 – Wilburton Field Office
- September 22 – Coalgate Field Office
- September 24 – Bethel Field Office

### 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

<u>Bethel</u> Choctaw Community Building	<u>Broken Bow</u> Chocataw Family Investment Center
<u>Idabel</u> Choctaw Community Center	<u>Smithville</u> Choctaw Community Building
<u>Stigler</u> Choctaw Community Building	

### ANTLERS

Market open weekdays September 1-25, except for:

- September 2: Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed).
- September 9: Bethel 9-10:30 a.m.; Smithville 12-2 p.m. (market closed).
- Closed September 7 for holiday.
- Closed September 28-30 for inventory.
- Food Demo – September 17

### McALESTER

Market open weekdays September 2-25, except for:

- September 1: Stigler 9-12 a.m. (market closed).
- Closed September 7 for holiday.
- Closed September 28-30 for inventory.
- Food Demo – September 15

### POTEAU

Market open weekdays September 1-25, except for:

- Closed September 7 for holiday.
- Closed September 28-30 for inventory.
- Food Demo – September 8.

### DURANT

Warehouse open weekdays September 1-25, except for:

- Closed September 7 for holiday.
- Closed September 28-30 for inventory.
- Food Demo – September 10

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# Youth Advisory Board participate in Blue Ribbon Tree program



Several schools in the Choctaw Nation were given the chance to participate in the Blue Ribbon Tree Event in honor of Child



Abuse Awareness Month. The Blue Ribbons tied to each tree represents one life affected by child abuse.



Youth Advisory Board students “helping prevent child abuse” are from Heavener, Stigler and Howe.



## Nate Williams makes Bar Mitzvah gift to CNO Scholarship Advisement Program

According to Jewish law, when children reach the age of adulthood (generally 13 years for boys and 12 for girls) they become responsible for their actions, and “become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.” The child is now counted as an adult with all of an adult’s religious duties. It is a solemn occasion. At the Bar/ Bat Mitzvah they even lead the prayer service with readings from the Torah.

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs are also a time of celebrating and gift-giving. But in the last decade an interesting new trend has emerged for teens celebrating their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. Many are also finding a way to give back by donating to charities of their choice.

Choctaw Nation member Nate Williams of Atlanta made a presentation to his classmates and teachers in order to secure funding for the Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program.

“Enclosed is a check to go towards the Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program,” Nate’s accompanying letter began. “In my presentation, I talked about how proud I am to be Choctaw (my Dad’s family is from Broken Bow), and how blessed my family has been to be able to afford educational opportunities. My two older brothers are now in college so I know it is expensive. I hope this money helps a student attend college.”

Nate learned about the Scholarship Advisement Program through an Aunt (Linda Williams) who works for a Choctaw Health Clinic in Broken Bow.

## Scholarships of OJ and Mary Christine Harvey Trust provided Choctaw Nation and SOSU

Student scholarships of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Southeastern Oklahoma State University depend to an important extent upon donations from donors outside these institutions. Among these donors are the OJ and Mary Christine Harvey Educational Foundation, established to provide scholarships to academically capable and financially needy students, especially Native American students.

“Each year the OJ and Mary Christine Harvey Educational Foundation provide scholarships that help a number of Choctaw students with a financial need obtain a higher education at Southeastern State University,” says Chief, Gregory E. Pyle. “Our Scholarship Advisement Program is extremely grateful for the generous support provided by the OJ and Mary Christine Harvey Educational Foundation.”

Created originally as the Foundation for Educational Advancement, the name of the foundation was changed to the OJ and Mary Christine Harvey Educational Foundation upon the death of Mrs. Harvey in 2003 in honor of her commitment to education, particularly to capable students of serious financial need.

The first scholarships were awarded by the Foundation for Educational Advancement to students at Northeastern State University in honor of a deceased faculty member of that university who had been a close friend of the Harveys for several years. Award of scholarships by the present foundation was first made to the Choctaw Nation and to Southeastern Oklahoma State University in the Fall semester of 2005.

Scholarships are generally granted to a recipient for both the Fall and Spring semesters based upon the student’s financial need and the maintenance of a grade point average of 2.7 (C+) for both semesters on at least 12 semester hours credit for each semester. Once granted, the scholarship to a student is continued until his or

her graduation if the required grades have been successfully maintained for both semesters.

Dr. and Mrs. Harvey are both native Oklahomans of poor financial backgrounds. Dr. Harvey, part Choctaw himself, was born in Corinne, some 50 miles from Durant, and until mid-adolescence lived among Choc-taws, near Bethel, in northern McCurtain County. Mrs. Harvey was born and grew to adulthood in Pauls Valley. Early in life, and especially after college, the Harveys recognized education clearly as a means through which an individual may gain options and degrees of freedom in adapting to life.

Following a tour in the U.S. Navy as an enlisted naval correspondent, Dr. Harvey returned to college at the University of Oklahoma, where in 1954 he received a Ph.D. in social psychology and Mrs. Harvey graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in history and political science. Subsequently both became successful educators, Dr. Harvey for 37 years as a professor of Psychology and Mrs. Harvey for 31 years as a teacher of the sixth grade.

After a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University and work on the Yale Attitude Change project, Dr. Harvey was an assistant professor of psychology at Vanderbilt University for three years, and from 1958 until retirement in 1991 he was Professor of Psychology at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Mrs. Harvey, taught the sixth grade in the local school district until her retirement in 1989.

Professor Harvey was the recipient of several national and local awards, including Teacher of the Year Award from the University of Colorado. Additionally, he presented invited lectures to numerous businesses and religious organizations and to 64 universities in this and other countries and chaired 39 Ph.D dissertations. At age 82, he is continuing research and writing on the openness-closedness of belief systems, need and search for

certainty, social consensus and conformity, and group conflict and cooperation.

Dr. Harvey was the author or coauthor of five books and 71 articles, all dealing mainly with the development and effects of attitudes and belief systems on social judgment and perception.

The best known and influential of these works, however, nationally and internationally, is “The Robbers Cave Experiment,” first published by the University of Oklahoma in 1954 and republished with additional material in 1988 by the Wesleyan University Press. Though philosophers and social scientists have long been concerned with the causes and consequences of group cooperation and competition, the Robbers Cave Experiment is the only study so far that has examined the effects of competition and cooperation experimentally induced under controlled conditions. The experiment was conducted by the late Dr. Muzafer Sherif, a world renowned social psychologist, OJ Harvey and three other social psychologists from the University of Oklahoma, all now deceased except Dr. Harvey, during the summer of 1954 at the Robbers Cave State Park near Wilburton, for which the study was named.

Chris Wesberry, Coordinator of the Southeastern Native American Center for Student Success feels that these scholarships are truly making a difference. Many of the recipients would not be able to attend college if not for the generosity of the Harvey Foundation. The legacy of OJ and Mary Christine Harvey’s commitment to education will live on for many years. Jo McDaniel, Director of the Scholarship Advisement Program for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma expressed a similar feeling. We are thrilled for the opportunity for our Choctaw students. The partnership between the Harvey Foundation and Southeastern will benefit Choctaw students for years to come.”



## Dancing the night away

The Heavener Youth Advisory Board planned and hosted a Senior Citizen Dance for their local nursing homes. The theme was ‘Dancing with the Seniors Under the Stars.’ With the support of many local businesses and the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Poteau this event was a success. Some attendees noted that was the most fun they had had in 40 years.



## Off to a great start

Hodgen’s Youth Advisory Board is just beginning but has gotten off to a great start. They have recently helped with health fairs and did a postcard buddy system with the 3rd graders in their school. Pictured above are Laura Jo Allen, Sierra Janway, Cheyanne Pilkington, Seth Scantling, Luke Culpepper, and Cassidy Caughern writing to their third grade postcard buddies. Below, Micheal Christman, Laura Jo Allen, and Cheyanne Pilkington pass out popcorn at the Spiro Health Fair.



## Tribal member elated to recover stolen art

When Choctaw artist George Willis drove to Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum in Los Angeles last October he thought it would be like most other intertribal art events. He hoped to sell some of his work, visit with his artist friends, and perhaps be considered for an award. After the show he went to visit his son, George Roland Willis, who works as a sculptor in Hollywood. When he left a few hours later, he was shocked to discover that his car had been stolen, along with all of his artwork, which was locked in the trunk.

Willis called the Los Angeles police to report the theft, which included over 200 pieces of jewelry and sculpture. Among them was the award winning “Story Belt,” a series of eight sterling silver panels which took nearly six months to complete. The hand-carved panels depict historical events



of the Choctaw Nation, from the Trail of Tears to the Code Talkers serving in World War I. They also show images of Choctaw cultural heritage like eagle dancers and a traditional stickball game. The Story Belt had been displayed at the Smithsonian Institution and at the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC.

The police were provided with photos of the missing jewelry in hopes that its distinctive look might be recognized if it turned up at a local pawn shop or native craft store. Willis was also interviewed on CBS news for a story about the theft, and

the family offered a \$500 reward for the story belt’s return. They feared that this irreplaceable piece of Choctaw art might be melted down for the scrap metal value of the silver.

Three days later Willis’ car was found abandoned in the nearby Los Angeles suburb of Burbank. When Willis went to retrieve the car the next day he opened the trunk and found the missing artwork and jewelry still locked safely inside. Evidently the thief had simply stolen the car to drive around for a few hours and never bothered to look in the trunk.

Willis and his family were elated to recover the jewelry and sculptures, which represented years of the artist’s work. They plan to continue displaying the story belt at museums and native art events, to help teach future generations about the history and culture of the Choctaw Nation.

CHOCTAW NATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Idabel 10:00-2:00	3
4	5	6 Antlers By Appt.	7 Durant 10:00-2:00	8	9	10
11	12 Talihina 10:00-2:00	13	14 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler By Appt.	15	16 Broken Bow 10:00-2:00	17
18	19	20 Poteau 11:30-1:00	21 Atoka 10:00-2:00 Coalgate 10:30-1:30	22	23 Wright City & Bethel By Appt.	24
25	26 Crowder By Appt.	27	28 Wilburton 10:30-2:00	29	30	31

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.





## Ambassador of music

Trombone-player Julia Toloa Meador, the 18-year-old daughter of Robert and Holly Fobb Meador, has been selected and represented Oklahoma as an Ambassador of Music, along with many other students throughout the state earlier this summer. She attended a camp held in Ada prior to beginning a tour that swept through England, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy and Germany.

Before earning her European tour, Toloa had participated in many honor bands throughout her musical career including Southwestern Oklahoma Band Directors Association Shortgrass Honor Band for six years and All-Region Honor Band for five years. Toloa was awarded the John Philip Sousa Award in 2008 and again this year. She was also named an “Outstanding Musician” at the Heartland Music Festival. During the 2008-09 school year, Toloa served both as Band Council President and Drum Major in her hometown of Frederick as part of the Frederick High School Bomber Band.

Toloa would like to thank her parents and her grandparents, Cordell and Vera Hicks Hudson and Barbara Meador, all of Frederick. She gives a special thanks to Ann Clayton, Kenny Bryant, Chop Hudson and Cecil Wade for everything they have done to help her succeed with her trip.

Toloa is pictured above with her mom, Holly Meador, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and her grandmother, Vera Hudson, during a visit to Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant.



## Bryant works with area schools

The faculty and students of Watson Elementary School would like to express their appreciation of Choctaw Nation's tribal councilman Kenny Bryant, of Tali hina for the support which he has shown the school over the past several years. Mr. Bryant has worked tirelessly for the students of Watson School. He has been instrumental in obtaining playground equipment, transportation, and money for needed equipment and supplies. Mr. Bryant has provided transportation and funds for educational trips for Watson students that would have been unavailable to the students without his help. Most recently he provided funds for the school to purchase much needed equipment. Thank you Kenny Bryant!

Pictured front row from left: Bonnie Harwood, Dakota Pol-lard Mackenzie Wright, Seth Sherwood, Jacob Sherwood, Tren-ton Overton. Back row from left: Mrs. Amanda Morris, Tiffany Harwood, Bryce Lowe, Councilman Kenny Bryant, Trey Keiss, Kelly Stowe, Mrs. Helen Moore.



Youth Advisory Board members help with the Indian Education Summer Enrichment Program at Howe Public Schools making crafts such as corn husk dolls, choker necklaces and clay pots. Above left, Ciera Yandell, Lauren Smith, Madison Stacy, Chesly Hall, and Shelly Herrin with students that made corn husk dolls. In photo, above right, Lindsey Smith, Kayla Branning, Madison Stacy and Chelsy Hall with students who made choker necklaces.



## Jones Academy hosts Family Day

About 350 parents, relatives, friends, and alumni attended the annual Family Day festivities at Jones Academy on May 9. They came from as far away places as Pierre, South Dakota, Lukahcu-kai, Arizona, and Philadelphia, Mississippi. Families and friends visited the students at Jones Academy and spent a day of fun and food with their loved ones. Because of the rain, indoor activities, games, family portraits, inflatable slides and jumpers were housed in the gym. Two meals and snacks were also provided for the families throughout the day. In spite of the weather, everyone appeared to have a great time.

## Delaney Leyja wins Woods Scholarship

Delaney Leyja, a Jones Academy student and the 17-year-old daughter of Ann Leyja of Frederick, was the 2009 recipient of the James “Mickey” McClure Scholarship. The scholarship is sponsored by the Robert H. Wood family in honor of James McClure. Robert Wood was a coach and teacher at Jones Academy from 1942 through 1947. McClure was a student at the academy as well as captain of the boxing team. Delaney was presented with the award during a reception for Jones Academy graduating seniors. She was recognized for her strong leadership skills and academic excellence. Delaney is scheduled to attend classes at the Great Plains Technology Center in Frederick this fall. She is pictured with her mother, Ann Leyja.



## State champion in 100m dash

Congratulations to Alayna McGee, a student at Atoka High School, who has once again participated in the State Track Meet in Tulsa. She won the 100-meter dash in 12.7 seconds. This win makes her a two-time state champion, reigning for the years of 2008 and 2009. Her proud parents are Lewis and Diane McGee of Atoka; sister, Ashaunte McGee of Durant; grandfather, Roosevelt Butler of Atoka; and grandmother, Mary Ann McGee of Stringtown.



## Congratulations to Sean Hamilton!

Sean Hamilton is a 2009 graduate of Atascadero High School in Atascadero, California. He will be attending Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, California, this fall. His family would like to congratulate him and tell him how proud they are of him!

## Eagle Scout

Congratulations to Joseph McGowan, 15, of Denison, Texas, who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout project was to plan, raise funds, and direct construction of a tool shed for the Grayson County Bootcamp's Air Chapel. The chapel serves the boys at the bootcamp by offering Bible studies, art lessons, guitar lessons and as a reception area. The first supply of building materials was destroyed in December's tornado which delayed the project and required additional fundraising to complete the shed. McGowan is the son of Dr. Peter and Jody McGowan, the grandson of Ron and Donna Bartee, and the great-grandson of Dorthy and Otto Mahaney and Chris and Hubert Bartee of Madill.



## To the Youth of the Nation

### People don't realize

By Sheibre Staley  
Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

You hear people kidding around about rape. Most people don't actually realize that it could happen to them or even that it may have happened to some of their friends or people close to them and it hurts them because it is not a joke.

It is scary just to think about it. I don't see how people can actually do that to other people. In the news today you hear about a lot of teens or a little younger getting raped. It makes you wonder what the kids are thinking when it happens. You wonder if they blame themselves or if they are asking themselves, “Why did it happen to me, what did I do to cause them to do this, what if I didn't go?”

People just don't know how good they have it until something happens to them. People also wouldn't be kidding or making it a big joke if it happened to them. Please think about other people before you joke about things like that.



## Come Join Us! Enrollment Closes Sept. 25! Enroll Now at Jones Academy!

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

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

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

# CHOCTAW NATION BOOK STORE

## NEW!!!

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



Happy Birthday - \$2 each



Happy Birthday Moon - \$2 each

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  
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Web site: [www.choctawschool.com](http://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)

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Charge my:  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

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





Helping with door prizes at San Francisco was Jessie Lee Richardson.



Amanda Wilson and Aidan Ackuna, who will be one on September 2nd.



Sara and Alex Sarmiento visit with Gena Fowler at the Career Development Booth.



Former Wheelock students Dorothy Wilson Durant and Norma Ruth Benton Price visited with Chief at San Francisco.



Nova Walker, Joe Prescott, Nova Cooper and Tim Hunter are pictured with Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Dennis and Roxie Allen are pictured with Chief Pyle at the San Francisco gathering. Dennis said he is preparing to acquire a Choctaw flag to fly at his home in California.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Jim Bryan visit in San Francisco.



Susan and Davis Bullock came up from the Sierra foothills to visit with other Choctaws in San Francisco.

5TH ANNUAL  
**POW WOW**  
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  
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Traditional, Straight, Grass, Fancy, Chicken, Golden Age Northern & Southern  
**Womens Choctaw Traditional Dance Contest**  
**Tiny Tots**  
**Drum Contest:**  
Northern & Southern  
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# Gathering in Fresno



Nancy Mason, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Jenny Taylor and Terry Taylor smile at the camera in Fresno.



Assistant Chief Batton with Latrisha Clay, Clayton Miears, Catherine Clay, Cindy Clay, Bob Clay and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.



Gabriel Garcia helps Chief Pyle with door prizes at the Fresno, California, meeting.



Wanda Eaton and Dolly Eskew.



Chief with Betty Watson, who as lived in California for 45 years after moving from Tuskahoma.



Assistant Chief Batton and Shawn Olson.



Enjoying the Fresno gathering are Cameron, Carol and Dale Faust with Chief Pyle.



Rhoney Dans, Akari Williams, Mia Bluckman and Mariono Sanchez.



Donald Clemons presents Chief Pyle a KIA flag made especially for Native Americans.





# Iti Fabussa

**Question from a Claremore, Oklahoma reader:**

In reviewing the November 18,1903, Choctaw Rolls for Red River County, Cerrogorda, Indian Territory, I see my great-grandfather’s name entered as A-tok-lan-tubbee. While James Milligan’s book “The Choctaw of Oklahoma” identifies this as a war name (“tubbe” as “killer”, my Choctaw Language Dictionary is unable to accurately define the “A-tok-lan” portion of his name. Understanding the volume of requests, could you direct me to someone who could provide an accurate translation of his name as related to Choctaw culture during Post Removal 1834-1907.

**Answer:** The Choctaw Language Dictionary is an edited work by John R. Swanton form Cyrus Byington’s manuscripts. Swanton revised Byington’s spellings of the Choctaw Language. Swanton substituted a for v. The Choctaw word for “kill” appears as “Abi” in the Choctaw Language Dictionary. This same work in the form of a noun means a “killer”. It may also means “to win at a game of chance.” The “Atok-lan” is a misspelled word meaning “second time; again.” It is spelled “atuklant” in the Choctaw Language Dictionary. The compound word name means, “kills the second time”, or it may mean, “wins the second time.”

Names were given mostly based on acts of heroism or athleticism, which brought good to a particular group. However it may be based on hunting skills or on personality traits. Your great-grandfather’s name implies he earned his name by doing something twice in a fashion, which earned respect from his peers. Even an oratory skill in a debate can earn a title. Your great-grandfather may have been a great warrior in battle, a great hunter, a great ballplayer or a great orator.


**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.*

## Chabta

### Words of the Month

English	Choctaw	pronunciation
table	aiimpa	eye-em-pah
house or home	chukka	chohk-ka
cat	katos	kah-tos
rabbit	chukfi	chohk-fe
one	achvffa	ah-chaf-fah
two	tuklo	tohk-lo



### Labor Day Food Drive

Preschoolers at the Choctaw Nation Day Care in Durant add canned goods to a box in preparation for the Labor Day Festival Food Drive. Canned food donations were accepted at each of the parking entrances at the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds in Tuskahoma during the annual Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival, September 3-7. Donations will be distributed among food banks in Southeastern Oklahoma.

## Wetland Reserve Program

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal land from agriculture. WRP is reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill). The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the program. Funding for WRP comes from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

WRP participants benefit by receiving financial and technical assistance in return for restoring, protecting and enhancing wetland functions and values. They also will see a reduction in problems associated with farming potentially difficult areas and having incentives to develop wildlife recreational opportunities on their land.

Landowners and Tribes may file an application for a conservation easement or a cost-share restoration agreement with the US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) to restore and protect wetlands. Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land, but retain private ownership.

The program offers three enrollment options. These are a permanent easement, 30 year easement or a restoration cost-share agreement. To offer a conservation easement, the landowner must have owned the land for at least 12 months prior to enrolling it in the program, unless the land was inherited, the landowner exercised the landowner’s right of redemption after foreclosure, or the landowner can prove the land was not obtained for the purpose of enrolling it in the program. To participate in a restoration cost-share agreement, the landowner must show evidence of ownership.

For more information about the program you may contact your local USDA Service Center, listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture, or your local conservation district. Information is also available on the web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/s2002>.

# Employees join efforts to improve recycling habits

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma’s “Going Green” campaign received a boost recently through the efforts of employees throughout the tribe’s 10 1/2-county service area.

“All of our staff worked together in a competitive form to get in the habit of recycling,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “Teams were formed to see who could turn in the most items to recycle with the top three being rewarded for their efforts.”

In three week’s time, 27,238.5 pounds of paper, 1,307 pounds of cans and 991 pounds of plastic and 388 printer cartridges were collected and turned in to be recycled.

Top donations were: first place, McAlester Casino’s Audit Department team of six with an average of 1,105 pounds of recyclables per person; second place, the Behavioral Health team from Talihi-na, a team of seven who turned in an average of 845 pounds per person; and third place, Durant Casino’s Cage Accounting Department with six team members and an average



**Casey Bates of the Choctaw Nation Gaming Financial Analytics Department carries bags of aluminum cans collected during the Choctaw Nation’s recycling contest.**

of 311 pounds each.

“These employees were given a gift card for their team, but we all are the real winners,” said Chief Pyle. “Everyone was amazed at how fast the paper, plastic, aluminum and cartridges accumulated. The habits we learned will benefit us not only now but can be passed on to our children and grandchildren, instilling in them the importance of our environment.

“I want to congratulate ev-

eryone on their efforts to ‘Sustain Our Traditions, Our People, Our Earth.’ This slogan was the first of many endeavors to create a more environmentally friendly atmosphere in the work place, at home and in our communities,” said Chief Pyle.

Choctaw Nation employees pitch in every three months to clean up two-mile sections of highway in Durant, McCurtain County, at Jones Academy, Talihi-na and Grant. A concerted

effort is being made to reduce the use of environmentally unfriendly items such as styro-foam. New recyclable paper cups are at coffee stations for visitors, but most employees bring their own cups and glasses from home that can be washed and reused. Every employee received a Choctaw Nation mug at Christmas with the “green” logo.

Paper use is down as more staff members stop themselves from unnecessarily printing when they could instead save it on their computer. Employees have also been provided information on recycling center locations.

The Choctaw Nation’s Going Green team set up a booth at this year’s Labor Day Festival in Tuskahoma where visitors turned in empty cans or bottles. They were awarded a prize depending on how many items turned in, ranging from one can or bottle up to 15 of each or a combination of the two.

“These are small steps, but they continually help us to improve our habits,” said Chief Pyle.

# Trail of Tears from Mississippi walked by our ancestors

## ◆ ◆ ◆ Choctaw history ...

By Len Greenwood  
*Reprinted from March 1995 Bishinik*

### Part 2 of 4

Already uneasy with “all those injuns” camped just outside of town, residents of Vicksburg and Memphis soon found themselves facing food shortages and battling profiteers for the available food-stuffs. To make matters worse, as the steamers began to gather, one of the two larger boats, the Brandywine, caught fire while moored at Memphis and was badly damaged that it could not be used in the operation, This left the Reindeer and Walter Scott available at Memphis and the Talma and Cleopatra available at Vicksburg.

The 300 Choctaws who had “taken the bait” on the offer to walk were ferried across the Mississippi on the Reindeer, and there turned over to the guides who would lead them to the new land. George Gaines and his agents determined that the Choctaws at Memphis would be taken by steamboat up the Arkansas River to Little Rock or Fort Smith and from there by wagon on into their new territory. And, the Choctaws waiting at Vicksburg would be taken down the Mississippi to the Red River, up the Red to Big Fork (Ouachita)and up that river to Ecore a’Fabre (which by this time was also beginning to be known as John Camden’s Post and would later become Camden, Ark.) and hauled by wagon from there to Fort Towson.

There were approximately 2,000 Choctaws at Memphis. Sometime in mid November they were crammed aboard the Walter Scott and Reindeer and dispatched up the Arkansas River toward their new home-

land. But, at Arkansas Post, which was only about 60 miles up the Arkansas from the Mississippi, they Army halted the steam-boats, said they needed them to transport a new detachment to Fort Smith, and unloaded all of the Choctaws.

Following the floods, a blizzard was setting in with strong, cold northerly winds, snow and sleet dancing across the landscape. Most of the Choctaws were scantily clad, with some of the children naked. And, all the small military detachment at Arkansas Post could offer were 60 small army tents to help shelter the more than 2,000 Choctaws from the freezing storm.

**Any Choctaw who was able to stand and place one foot in front of the other was forced to walk.**

Rations were in very short supply, as Arkansas Post had not expected to find itself playing host to 2,000 cold and hungry Choctaws, so strict rationing had to be imposed. And, despite this fact, within a few days most of the rations were gone. By the time help arrived, both the Choctaw and the soldiers were receiving a ration of one handful of boiled or parched corn, one turnip and two cups of heated water per day.

To make matters worse, the temperature remained below the freezing mark for six days, and the Arkansas River became so clogged with ice that the Reindeer and Walter Scott were iced in at for Smith and could not make it back down river to Arkansas Post. After eight days, 40 government wagons were sent to Arkansas Post from Little Rock to begin relaying the Choctaws on to Fort

Smith, fortunately bringing food and blankets to the starving soldiers, many of whom already frozen to death or died of pneumonia.

When the first wagons reached Little Rock, a famous term that would eventually burn itself into history was born. In an interview with an Arkansas Gazette reporter, one of the Choctaw Chiefs (thought to be either Thomas Harkins or Nitikechi) was quoted as saying that the removal to that point had been a “trail of tears and death.” The “Trail of Tears” quotation was picked up by the eastern press and widely quoted. It soon became a term analogous with the removal of any Indian tribe and was later burned into the American language by the brutal removal of the Cherokees in 1838.

In the meantime, steaming from Vicksburg, the Talma and Cleopatra, with some 3,000 Choctaws aboard moved up the Red to the Big Fork and up that river as far as Monroe, La. They were halted at Monroe with the tale of what had happened to the 300 Choctaws who had decided to “hoof it” to the new land. Led off by the path by their incompetent guide and then caught in the blizzard, the walking party became lost in the Lake Providence swamps. A rescue party from Monroe was dispatched to locate what remained of the lost Indians and bring them the 60 remaining miles into Monroe.

But, at Monroe, the Talma developed engine problems and was forced to off-load all of the Choctaws and their supplies there, from where they would be ferried in groups on up the Big Fork to Ecore a’Fabre by the Cleopatra. However, while waiting at Monroe for the Cleopatra to take them on up river, the Choctaws did not fare

as badly as had their fellow Indians who had been kicked off the steamers at Arkansas Post. The residents of Monroe had good supplies of corn, dried beans, pumpkins and onions on hand, sharing them freely, and there were woods enough to provide some shelter from the storm. On its final trip from Monroe to Ecore a’Fabr4e, the Cleopatra took the remainder of the 300 Indians who had decided to walk along with the lost group of Choctaws in the removal.

But, the Choctaws who had traveled the southern route had not missed the privations and troubles that harassed the entire 1831 removal party. Their trouble was just beginning. Either through a breakdown in communications or ill-advised and lazy removal agents, very few preparations had been made to care for the Choctaws after their arrival at Ecore a’Fabre.

Not expecting 3,000 Choctaws, the removal agents had not purchased enough rations, and there were only a dozen Army wagons available to escort the Choctaws the remaining 150 miles plus to the boundaries of their new territory. This meant that only the tiniest children and the most elderly, ill or infirm among the Choctaws could be transported by wagon. Any Choctaw who was able to stand and place one foot in front of the other was forced to walk. Despite their assurances of cooperation to George Gaines, the Arkansas farmers along the route, realizing how short supplies for the Choctaws were, demanded \$2 per bushel for their corn and tripled or quadrupled the price of any meat or animals they had to sell.

**To be continued in the October BISHINIK**

# Statewide sign-up for new Conservation Stewardship begins

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has begun continuous sign-up for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) in Oklahoma. The first cutoff for ranking purposes is scheduled for September 30.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) authorized the Conservation Stewardship Program. Congress renamed and revamped the former Conservation Security Program completely to improve its availability and appeal to agricultural and forestry producers. The Conservation Stewardship Program will be offered in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups with announced cut-off application dates for ranking periods. The maximum annual enrollment is capped at nearly 12.8 million acres nationwide.

NRCS administers CSP, a voluntary conservation program designed to encourage agricultural and forestry producers to adopt additional conservation practices and improve, maintain and manage existing ones.

To apply for the newly revamped CSP, individual producers, legal entities and Indian tribes will be encouraged to use a self-screening checklist first to determine whether the new program is

suitable for them or their operation. The checklist is available on NRCS Web sites and at NRCS field offices.

After the self-screening, the producer’s current and proposed conservation activities are entered in the conservation measurement tool (CMT). This tool estimates the level of environmental performance to be achieved by a producer implementing and maintaining conservation activities. The conservation performance estimated by the CMT will be used to rank applications.

A producer must treat at least one resource concern and one priority resource concern during the length of the CSP’s five-year contract. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland, non-industrial private forestland – a new land use for the program – and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe Land enrolled in the Conservation Security Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Grasslands Reserve Program and Wetlands Reserve Program are ineligible for the new Conservation Stewardship Program.

For more information about the new CSP, please visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/new\\_csp/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp/). For more information about conservation programs in Oklahoma, please visit [www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov).



OBITUARIES

Jeanivee Quintella Jackson Walker Carter

Jeanivee Quintella Jackson Walker Carter, 88, passed away in Oklahoma City on July 26, 2009. She was born on November 21, 1920, in Atoka to Fulsom Chelsea and Mattie Bell Mead Jackson. She graduated from Atoka School in 1938. She was employed as a phone operator for Southwestern Bell in Atoka. Jeanivee was a longtime member of Cottonwood Baptist Church, Eastern Star and Cottonwood Home Demonstration Club. She married Carl Walker in 1938 in Atoka, and later married Ernest E. Carter in 1955 in Oklahoma City.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ernest E. Carter; a grandson, Jeff Vietta; a stepson, Ernest Mac Carter; four brothers, Lamar Jackson, Lloyd Jackson, Hayden Jackson and James Jackson; a sister, Virginia Phillips; three infant sisters; and son-in-law John R. Vietta.

She is survived by her children, Virginia “Gennie Bell” Vietta of Durant and Sue Ann Humphrey of Stuart; eight grandchildren, John E. Vietta and wife Debbie of Durant, James Vietta of Dallas, Texas, Heath Davidson and wife Jeanne of Coalgate, Greg Davidson and wife Krystal of Tushka, Jaila Humphrey and Seth Humphrey, both of Stuart, Brad Carter and wife Sherry, David and wife Jamie, all of Seminole; six great-grandchildren, John Michael Vietta and Jacob Logan Vietta, both of Durant, Kadencee Drinnon of Stuart, Hunter, Briar and Rainey Davidson of Coalgate; a daughter-in-law, Kathy Carter of Seminole, other relatives and many dear and loved friends.



Jerry Robert Bray

Jerry Robert Bray, 71, Broken Bow, passed away April 13, 2009, at Paris Regional Medical Center, Paris, Texas. He was born June 4, 1937, in Lawton, the son of Robert and Opal Blanche Bray of Broken Bow.

He was a member of House of Prayer Pentecostal Church, Broken Bow. He was an avid rancher and had baled hay throughout McCurtain County. He sold hay up to the last week of his life. He always looked out for people who were less fortunate than him. During a trip to the dump he would often bring back an abandoned animal. He never turned a stray away and spent his time with his latest friend, “Buddy,” whom his wife bought to keep him company during his illness. He loved taking his mother to the Choctaw Family Investment Center in Broken Bow; he helped clean up, always helping out. He especially loved playing Bingo and would share his prizes with the older people who did not win.

Jerry was preceded in death by his father; son, Joey Bray; maternal grandparents, Osborne L and Minnie Moore Blanche; and paternal grandparents, Robert Lincoln Bray and Anna Bruehl Bray.

Jerry is survived by his loving wife, Virginia (Virgo); his mother, Opal, whom he loved dearly; brother, Fred and wife Doris Harris Bray of Broken Bow; sister, Rita and husband Steve Montgomery of Broken Arrow; sons, Jerry Robert Bray Jr. of Mena, Arkansas, Stanley Martin Bray and Jesse Bray of Texarkana, Texas, Russell Wright and wife Rhonda of Tucson, Arizona; daughters, Kristi Webb of Moore and Christy Towery of the home; grandchildren, Jeremy Bray of Texarkana, Jonathon and Savannah Webb of Moore, Alex and Angelica Wright of Tucson, and Mason Towery of the home.

Ann Churchill

Ann Churchill, 73, passed away on March 30, 2009, at the Arkansas Heart Hospital in Little Rock. She was born February 12, 1936, in Freer, Texas, to the late Berlin O. and Daisy McMurry Paris.

She graduated from Arkansas Tech University with an associate’s degree in early childhood education. She was the founder and operator of the Pope County Senior Companion Program until her retirement, the former director of the Appleton Head Start Center and the Arkansas Tech University Head Start Center. She was a member of the Russellville Chamber of Commerce, served in the River Valley area on various local boards and commissions, and was a former Pope County Woman of the Year. She was also a member of River Valley Designers and the Arkansas Porcelain Arts Teachers Association, and attended the Dover Church of Christ.

She was also preceded in death by a grandson, James Patrick Freeman Jr.

Survivors include her husband, Jamie Churchill; two sons, Jeffrey Duane Churchill and his wife, Ester, of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Tres Churchill and his wife, Maia, of Austin, Texas; three daughters, Judith Christia Churchill of Hector; Janis Juli’Ann Rowlands and her husband, Don, of Hector; and Christia D’Ann Churchill and her partner, Monica Gill, of Austin; a brother, Billy Paris and his wife, Lois, of Corpus Christi; 11 grandchildren: Summer Calais Grier of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Meaghan Nicole Tawil of Cibolo, Texas, Grant Alexander Lezama Churchill of Corpus Christi, Sara Christia Geater of Dover, Laura Suzanne Freeman of Russellville, Mary Elyse Rowlands and Catherine Grace Rowlands, both of Hector, and Gilliann Claire Churchill, Elena Christia Churchill, Elijah Rey Churchill and Noah Street Churchill, all of Austin; four great-grandchildren, Levi William Welsh of Hector, Cate Elizabeth Freeman of Russellville, Jordan Matthew Slocum Tawil of Cibolo, and Jake Allen Geater of Dover; special cousins, James and Shirlie Chadwick of Dover; and her lifelong best friend, Carolyn Klump of Goliad, Texas.



Ulis ‘Jeff’ Jefferson

Ulis “Jeff” Jefferson, 70, of Yellville, Arkansas, passed away on April 9, 2009, at his home. He was born on August 5, 1938, to Wallace and Delphia Pierce Jefferson.

He was a member of the Yellville First Baptist Church and served his country during the Korean War in the U.S. Army. He married Lela Burgess on October 9, 1965. They owned and operated the Hilltop Restaurant.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one son, Larry. Jeff is survived by his wife; one daughter, Vicky Harris of Yellville, three brothers, Otis Jefferson and Cleo Jefferson, both of McAlester, and Cleno Jefferson of Riverside, California; three sisters, Loretta Wooley and Ruth Jackson, both of McAlester, and Alice Hayes of Shawnee, Kansas; five grandchildren, Justin Johnson, Corey Johnson, Jeffrey Hansen, Colby Harris and Logan Harris; and two step-grandchildren, Jeremy Johnson and Tessa Johnson.



Lynnette Cheri Cooley

Lynnette Cheri Cooley passed away on July 10, 2005. Lynnette was born on January 1, 1971, to Matricia and Jesse Wilson, and to Thomas and Shirley Porter.

Lynnette attended Wilburton Public Schools, and graduated in May 1989. Lynnette’s interest was doing mechanical work. Lynnette’s hobbies were collecting eagle statues, eagle posters, fishing, playing sports and teaching her dog, Chrissy, new tricks.

Lynnette was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Russell Scott and Dollie Scott; paternal grandparents, Joseph Wilson, Anna Mae Bryson, Claudine Shumauker, and Roy Rust; uncles, Marty Scott, Leory Scott, Joe Going and Rayson Going Jr., and an aunt, Nancy Daring.

Lynnette is survived by parents Matricia and Jesse Wilson, and Thomas and Shirley Porter; paternal grandmothers, Alta Mae Wilson and Katie Rust; sisters, Patricia Lawrence, Tonia Cantrell, Ashley Porter and Amy Brezenski; brother, Luke Porter; brothers-in-law: Michael Lawrence, Jerry Cantrell Jr. and Ted Brezenski; aunts, Josie Scott, Tina Galvin, Blue Grimes, Brenda K. Dobson, Brenda Wilson, Charlotte Campbell, Retha Wilson, Nora Scott, Josephine Scott, Martha Scott, Inez Scott, Sharon Porter, Sherry O’Brian, Peggy Thaut and Patti Lindtengen; uncles, Wayne Scott Sr., Ken Scott Sr., Thomas Scott, Charles Scott, Frank Scott, George Scott, Bill Wilson, Curtis Wilson, Jimmy Don Wilson, Mark Wilson, Richard Wilson, Jim Porter, Ken Porter, Ronnie Porter, Bill Porter and Scott Rust; and numerous nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Curtis Veldon Manley Jr.

Curtis Veldon Manley Jr., 76, passed away on July 30, 2009, in Tulsa. He was born on April 5, 1933, to Curtis V. Manley and Olive Pugh Manley.

Curtis’ maternal grandmother, Ada Wilson Pugh, was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation. Curtis was a true teacher who believed in challenging his students to achieve more than they thought they could accomplish. His greatest pleasure from his many years in education was to see his students reach their goals both great and small.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother. Survivors include his daughter, Robin Haynes and her husband, Randy; son, Rick Manley and wife Patti; grandchildren, Jesse, Brandon, Bonnie and Brenna; mother of the children, Barbara Phillips; and many special extended family members including sister-in-law, Sylvia Manley.



Jim Blaylock

Jim Blaylock, 90, of McCurtain passed away July 20, 2009, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was born October 6, 1918, in McCurtain to Willis Henry and Pearl Lee Rogers Blaylock.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Wilma Jean Blaylock; sister, Dixie Coffey, and brother, Doyle Blaylock.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jean; one daughter, Diana Franklin and her husband, Billy, of Pocola; one son, Jimmy Blaylock and his wife, Bonnie, of McCurtain; two brothers, Joe Henry Blaylock of Moundridge, Kansas, and Billy Blaylock of McCurtain; five grandchildren, Leisha Hall of Panama, Michael Blaylock of McCurtain, Laura Spath of Rincon, Georgia, Mark Blaylock of Sallisaw, and Tobey Blaylock of Stigler; and several great-grandchildren.

Von Marie Bench Atchley

Von Marie Bench Atchley, 87, of Troy, Missouri, passed away on July 21, 2009, at St. Joseph’s Health Center in St. Charles, Missouri. She was born on April 2, 1922, in Boswell to Daniel C. and Katie Stevens Bench of Boswell.

She was married to James Beryl Atchley on January 9, 1940. After living in Oklahoma the first 13 years of their married life, they relocated to Winfield, Missouri. She was a sewing machine operator in aerospace at McDonnell-Douglas. Von Marie was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She loved her family celebrations and reunions. Her hobbies were sewing, playing Skip-Bo, watching the Cardinals play baseball, the Rams play football and circuit bull riding.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, James; and two daughters, Jackie Skinner and Virginia Huffman.

She is survived by two daughters, Pat Reinholz-Eberhart and husband Wesley of Bethalto, Illinois, Judy Roettger of Lake St. Louis, Missouri; three sons, Charlie Atchley and wife Leota of Balwin, Missouri, Gerald Atchley and wife Joyce of San Antonio, Texas, Russell Atchley of Kansas City, Missouri; one brother, Paul Bench and wife Flora, of Stockton, California; 21 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and friends.



Henry Leftrage ‘H.L.’ Waters

Henry Leftrage “H.L.” Waters, 91, passed away on June 5, 2009. He was born on September 27, 1917, in Ada to Henry Leftrage and Minnie Overstreet Waters.

He attended and graduated from Vanoss High School and attended East Central University. He married Estaline Loretta Little on August 8, 1937, at Gaar Corner. He was employed with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company until retirement, then moved to Gaar Corner.

During his retirement, he provided volunteer service to the Pontotoc County Jr. Livestock Show. He was a member of the Vanoss School Board, Vanoss Booster Club, Masonic Lodge, Ada Miniature Aircraft Club and Community Freewill Baptist Church at Pickett. He was an originating member of the Board of Directors of Pontotoc County Rural Water District #8, an honorary chapter farmer for the Vanoss School FFA and received “Honorary Coach” and “Friend of Education.”

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, William Waters.

He is survived by his wife; one son, Joe Waters and wife Oma of Gaar Corner; one daughter, Ann Stevenson and husband Thomas of Gaar Corner; 10 grandchildren, Dixie Morris of Ada, Christi Holman and husband Fred of Melissa, Texas, Renee Waters of St. Louis, Missouri, Mike Ingle of Oakland, California, Chris Fellows of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, Susan Leubscher and husband George of Orlando, Florida, Brad Stevenson of Elkins, West Virginia, Tim Stevenson of Hollywood, California, Tommy Stevenson and Blanca Aguirre, both of Sanford, Florida; 12 great-grandchildren, Lacey Calvert and husband Stephen of Ada, Jordan Morris of Yucaipa, California, Scout Morris of Ada, Rowdy Holman of Melissa, Maya Juergens-Ingle, Josh Fellows and Sophie Fellows of Rancho Santa Margarita, Michael Leubscher of Orlando, Tyler Stevenson of Hollywood, and Dakota, Mackensie, Jasmine and Isabella Aguirre, all of Sanford; one great-great-granddaughter, Aubrie Calvert; a sister-in-law, Joleeta Wallrath of Fort Myers, Florida; two nephews, Robert and Richard Wallrath, and three great-nephews, Mike, Robert and William Waters.



Wanda May Davis

Wanda May Davis, 75, of Oklahoma City passed away on August 2, 2009.

We will always remember her fondly.

Wanda was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Bobbie Haney; one stepson, Larry Davis; one brother, Woody Proctor; and three sisters, Pauline Yahola, Bessie Noreiga and Beatrice Meely.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Aleckton Davis; daughter, Ann Harry; three grandchildren, Stephanie Yazzie, Robin Harry and Jason Harry; three great-grandchildren, Alexis Martin, Shamia Martin and Brittany Harry; three brothers, Charlie Proctor, Washie Proctor and Jonas Proctor, and numerous other relatives and friends.

Malcolm ‘Mack’ Davis Bronaugh Jr.

Malcolm “Mack” Davis Bronaugh Jr., 70, passed away July 24, 2009, in Wichita Falls, Texas. Mack was born August 4, 1938, in Ada to Malcolm D. and Thelma Moore Bronaugh.

He spent his youth in Ada except for a couple of years during the war when they moved to Springfield, Missouri, while his father was stationed there with the Army. When he was 8, his family moved to Fort Worth, living on the north side where he attended Diamond Hill High School. In 1956 his childhood dream came true when he became a member of the U.S. Marines Corps. He proudly served for six years at Fort Pendleton, California, in the military police. He later became a police officer in North Richland Hills. Mack worked hard to support his family, often working two or three jobs. He worked for Lone Star Gas, drove an ambulance for Shannon’s Funeral Home and delivered for Whittin’s Drug Store.

In the early ’70s, Mack also played semi-pro football for the Fort Worth Texans. In 1973, he became an insurance salesman for Banker’s Life and Casualty. He was a natural-born salesman and was often in the top 10 percent in the country. He later became an independent agent and helped fill his time with working for Stanley Tools and Certainteed in security. In 1992, Mack married Norah. They moved back to Fort Worth in 1993 and Mack worked for Nokia before becoming disabled in 1994. Mack and Norah returned to Wichita Falls in 1998. Mack was always proud of his Native American heritage and never lost his love of Oklahoma. Mack never met a stranger and loved to make people laugh. He was one of a kind and will be greatly missed by all.

Mack is survived by his wife of the home; eight children, Laura Coleman of North Richland Hills, Gary and wife Dora of Bedford, Brent, Randy and wife Jennifer, Sharon and husband Craig Cooper, all of Wichita Falls, Liza Vance of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Larry Wilbur and Hank Reddin, both of St. Louis, Missouri; one sister, Betty and husband Steve Peltonon of Broken Arrow; one brother, Richard and wife Becky of Springtown; 13 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, two nieces and a nephew.

