

Tribe breaks ground for new McAlester clinic

Construction has begun on the new Choctaw Nation Health Clinic in McAlester on 9.2 acres on the west side of south George Nigh Expressway near Hardy Springs Road. Scheduled to open in the early summer of 2007, the facility will be 45,513 square feet and will provide 56 jobs, including four family practitioners, one pediatrician, one physical therapist, one dentist, and one optometrist. In keeping with the quest to prevent and care for diabetes, there will be diabetes education available at the clinic.

The current clinic facility operated by the tribe has three health care providers – one doctor, one dentist and one nurse practitioner. Having eight providers at the new clinic will allow many more appointments per day. Pharmacy, X-ray and lab will all be on site.

Problems finding a parking spot at the existing clinic will be forgotten with the opening of the new clinic – there are 176 parking slots designated for staff and patients.

See McAlester on Page 4



ROSS Grant implemented

The Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma/Family Investment Center is proud to announce the funding of the Resident Opportunity Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Grant. The ROSS Grant is a 3-year grant; active residents of the Choctaw Housing Authority's Mutual Help Housing, Affordable Residents and Rental Assistance Programs may be eligible (Choctaw Home Finance recipients do not qualify).

The ROSS Grant can assist housing residents in their education, the newly employed, and childcare as well as ACT Fee Waivers.

College or vocational training assistance can be granted for tuition and books to attend classes. Employment assistance can be granted for those starting a new job or who have been at their job for less than 60 days with transportation. We will reimburse for temporary child care expenses or out-of-pocket expenses for students while attending college or vocational training.

Eligibility for the ROSS Grant is as follows:

- Must complete application and submit supporting documents requested.
- Must be making payments to the Choctaw Housing Authority either for your Mutual Help Housing, or must be a resident in one of the rental units owned and operated by the Choctaw Housing Authority or receive rental assistance from Choctaw Housing Authority.

Applications can be picked up at the front desk of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Headquarters in Durant or the Choctaw Housing Authority or any of the Tribal Field Offices or Investment Centers. Applications for education assistance can be picked up at the financial aid offices at your local Kiamichi Technology Center or college/university within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Anyone having questions should contact Liz Lee, Program Coordinator at the Broken Bow Family Investment Center, 580-584-6372; or Carolyn Cagle, Case Manager at the Poteau Family Investment Center, 918-647-9324.



Walk honors ancestors

Millerton Park, Wheelock Academy site of annual event

More photos on Page 14



Boys and Girls Club appreciation awards

Boys and Girls Club staff and board members at Broken Bow, Audrey Mills, Robyn Batson, Dana Dunlap, Vicki Wood, Christie Weaver, Liz Lee and Vicki Amos, are pictured with Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Councilman Mike Amos at a recent fundraiser for the club. Donations to the Boys and Girls Club may be sent to P.O. Box 490, Broken Bow, OK 74728.

Inter-Tribal Council holds quarterly meeting

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes met for its quarterly meeting April 21 in Midwest City.

The Council, concerned with the wording of a preamble to a proposed Housing and Urban Development regulation, passed a resolution to revise the 2006 Self-Insurance Plans Under the Indian Housing Block Grant Program to state "Indian area" instead of "tribal lands" and to remove the word "property" in describing inclusion.

Other resolutions included:

- support for a contract with the National Park Service to produce a 20-minute video on the Trail of Tears;
- commemorating the Act of 1906 which instituted our sovereign rights;
- preventing proposed sales of land by the National Forest Service that may be of cultural significance;
- nominating the Chilocco Indian Agricultural School to the National Register of Historic Places.



Durant Casino celebrates grand opening

A ribbon-cutting ceremony kicked off a week-long celebration marking the opening of the newly constructed 108,000-square-foot Choctaw Casino Resort destination in Durant. The new casino features more games as well as six dining venues including a multi-station buffet, the Blue Moon Cafe featuring all-American favorites, and a coffee shop serving popular Starbucks coffees and specialty drinks. Located at 4418 Hwy. 69/75, the resort is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Choctaw Outstanding Employer

Chief Gregory E. Pyle accepted an award given to the Choctaw Nation for the 2006 Outstanding Employer at the 27th Annual National Indian and Native American Employment Conference in Tulsa.

Pictured with Chief Pyle at the award luncheon are Choctaw Workforce Investment Act Director Patty Mink and NASA astronaut John Herrington, the keynote speaker for the event.



Noah, Ketcheshawno receive certification

Eager to begin classes are two ladies who were awarded their teaching certificates during the Tribal Council's regular session May 13. Angela Noah, originally from Idabel, will be teaching the Choctaw language in community classes in Lawrence, Kansas. Betty Ketcheshawno of Sawyer will be teaching in Choctaw Nation Head Starts throughout the eastern area of the Choctaw Nation's 10 1/2 counties.

Several items of new business were on the day's agenda. Councilmembers approved:

- letters of appointment for James See COUNCIL on Page 13



Council Speaker Mike Amos, Angela Noah, Councilman Perry Thompson, Betty Ketcheshawno, and Richard Adams, Community Language Class program.

NOTES TO THE NATION



Choctaw Councilman Jack Austin, center, presents a check for the American Legion Building Fund to Post Commander Chuck Hutchinson and legionnaire Kenneth Ragan.

Tribe supports veterans

Dear Chief Pyle,

We are ever so grateful for the friendship we have and the generous donation the Choctaw Nation through Councilman Jack Austin made to our building fund. The Choctaw support of our veterans is well recognized throughout the nation and many veterans in our great organization are of Choctaw descent. Our post is forming an Honor Guard for funeral detail in the area and we are in need of modernizing our Post home. The donation you made will go a long way in our efforts to better serve the veterans of this area. If we may ever be of service to your tribe or Jack Austin please do not hesitate to contact us.

Chuck Hutchinson, Post Commander

Researching genealogy

Dear Editor,

I would like contact with anyone who is related to Bennie Hunter, a full-blood married to Tennessee Risaner. According to the records I have they had the following children: Tichard, Thomas, Nicholas, Silas, Myles, Eden, Jane (King), and Emma (Dwight). George Hunter is the son of one of these men. If you are a part of this family, would you please contact me at laurie_jeann@juno.com. There are many gaps in our genealogy information.

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition

Dear Chief Pyle,

As a member of the Choctaw Nation, I am grateful to be part of such a wonderful and strong people. I thank you for the many years of Christmas cards and calendars.

However, I'm writing in regards to inform you and other tribal members about the importance of ovarian cancer awareness, a disease that affects women from all walks of life. I have recently become the new founder and president of the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition of Arkansas, in the North Little Rock Chapter Division. There will be at least 16,000 newly diagnosed cases of ovarian cancer this year, so please if you will join me in spreading the word to all Native American women about the seriousness pertaining to this disease. There is no early detection available at this time, but maybe individuals can become aware of early warning signs. Anyone interested in contacting me please do so at tworeelmccoy@aol.com. Thank you.

Shanna McCoy

Mission Native America

Dear Chief Pyle,

Thank you Chief Pyle and Shannon McDaniel for being so generous with your time on April 3 to meet with Frank and Sharon Noah and myself. It certainly felt like there was so much more about which we could have visited. We are so grateful for your assistance in helping Mission Native American meet some of the needs among the United Houmas from the Katrina and Rita hurricanes.

We will leave this Sunday for Houma, Louisiana, with five semis of furniture, appliances, household goods and building materials. Over 40 volunteers from congregations across Oklahoma will spend the week distributing the items to the Houmas' hardest hit and working on some of the homes. Another 30-member roofing crew will meet us there to re-roof those most in need of a new roof for tribal members.

Jerry L. Mash, Mission Native American

Looking for ancestors

Dear Editor,

As a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, I enjoy receiving the monthly publication of the BISHINIK. I read with interest the obituaries of Nellie Viola Beaver Milam and Myrtle Azalea Beaver Lovin. My grandfather was Emery Goodwin Howard, who was a brother of their mother, Gertrude Izora Howard, and their grandparents were Caroline Ford and Thomas Jefferson Howard. I am a direct descendant of Caroline Ford and Thomas Jefferson Howard through my grandfather, Emery Goodwin Howard, and my father, Cecil Monte Howard.

I would enjoy contacting or corresponding with other descendants of these two ladies, the last of their generation. You may contact me at P.O. Box 57, Wetumka, OK 74883.

Jimmy D. Howard

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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To the Thunderbirds

I saw your picture today; it was on the front page of the BISHINIK. Couldn't tell which one you were but you were there, assembled with your Brothers in Arms. You were readying for deployment in Afghanistan.

Our Chief, yours and mine, Gregory E. Pyle, told you, "You will go out and protect our freedoms once again." That word "again" should have reminded you that you follow a long train of those who went before you. They fought in yesteryear on land, sea and in the air for the same freedom that is a delicate treasure. If it be abused or perverted or humiliated or taken for granted, it could very easily be lost. And freedom is highly perishable. Once lost, finding it can exact a terrible price not only from combatants but also from the helpless and the innocent.

You'll do well to remember, Choctaw, which however fragile and perishable freedom seems to be, it is nonetheless among a person's greatest treasures. It is a gift God entrusts to you. You are accountable to Him for how you use it.

You were pictured on the front page of the BISHINIK saying goodbye. I ask you to think well of your return home. When you come back I do hope you will be walking tall with your head held reverently high. Let your lips speak without either bluster or apology: "Chahta Sia Hoke."

That hope is also prayer and it comes from the depths of my being with all my heart. You know why, Choctaw? It's because what I share with you now comes from long experience. The Biblical three score and ten was left behind a long time ago. Soon He will call me to meet my Savior face to face. I believe He wants me to share some truths with you now to help prepare you for what you'll be facing on the trail you walk.

Your picture reminded me of a time over half a century ago. The Thunderbirds were saying their goodbyes, then readying for deployment to Korea. In many ways I was such as you are now: young, excited, eager to prove my worth in duty and honor for my country. Such a proof was essential for my family, too, but most assuredly for myself. I had not yet come to know myself.

I came to know the Thunderbirds of my time. They had near as many faults as I did but not all the same variety. Some came from homes knowing love and gentleness bound with discipline that was firm without being harsh. Some were raised with cursing and a strap. Most knew a mixture of all in homes, neither one nor the other. Some men were somewhat brash and others shy. Some were physically weak and others strong as an ox. Some could learn quickly. Others, like me, were slower to grasp understanding and often let it slip away. Some were building strength into body, mind and soul. Others stumbled into swamps of dissipation.

I came to love those men – all of them with all their strengths and in spite of their weaknesses. That love has not dimmed through all the decades that have followed. Of all the people I have known, the Thunderbirds are among those held highest in memory.

There are six truths you are asked to consider and act upon:

1. It is essential to give all you can to your training. You must know your assigned task well. The warrior who does not is no warrior at all. He is a menace to himself and all his Brothers in Arms.

2. Keep your language clean. Those whose mouths are filled with profanity and obscenity are simply revealing the state of their hearts. They may be strong. They may be courageous. By their choice, they walk their trail without even being aware of the One who would want to be by their side all the way to trail's end.

3. Stay completely away from alcohol and any form of narcotic. You cannot abuse them. Those things invariably abuse us. Taking a drink and reveling in drunken party, however restrained, does not "make a man out of you." It merely covers you with an increasingly vulnerable shell to hide disintegration. It hides only till your disintegration is complete and undeniable even to you. Such victims are found with new names: "Despised" and "Pitiful."

4. Not all your enemies are on the battlefield your unit is assigned to. There are enemies, which you have in common with all men: the flesh, the world, and Satan with all his minions. There are Thunderbirds who know who the Son of God is, and what He has done, and that He is ready to walk with you into all your tomorrows. They are no more perfect than you or me but they have a perfect Savior. You will strengthen each other. Stay close to them. Watch for those who have lost their way. When they are weak and fall down, you be one to lift them up and invite them to walk with you on the path you know is right.

5. Learn. To laugh with others but never at them. Laugh only at yourself. When you fall, it will help you get up again, and move on.

6. Choctaw, not all of you are coming home. Of those whom do not can all walk in their own strength?

Some will only be empty bodies in metal coffins. That state is reached not by a bullet or roadside bomb launched by an enemy combatant, it is because that person has reached his appointed time. We each have one. It can be reached while driving to a football game here in the states as easily as on a battlefield in a far away place with a strange sounding name. Some will apparently be alive but inside they will be dead. The cause of death will be failure: failure in duty and honor for country and family and for his Brothers in Arms. That is the kind of wound that cannot be seen but drains his life away in shame.

Well, Choctaw, I guess some of this has sounded a bit "preachy." Whatever. It is all true. I know. You see, I knew a little about all six truths above but chose to ignore the little I did know. I was one who failed. It was all long ago. I have walked in shame for over 50 years. I have shared this with you in the hope you will be spared the darkness of soul I have brought down upon myself.

God go with you, Choctaw, and bring you safely home.

Seeking ancestry help

Dear Editor,

Looking for any information of memory, history or family by the name of Mary Jane Dame Huddleston on the maternal side. Also, looking for any information on Ruby Long. She was pictured in the October 2005 BISHINIK. I am hoping to connect with anyone having historical memory or information pertaining to Elizabeth Myra Long, Virginia, mother to Hulda Jane Elliott, also known as William Marvin Anglin's wife, married in 1889. Please contact Deborah Fassbinder at P.O. Box 426, Elverta, CA 95626 or 916-613-1248. Thank you.

Deborah Fassbinder

Get Movin' Program educational

To the Choctaw Nation Get Movin' Program,

The program that you presented to the fifth grade students throughout the year was very educational. The students learned a lot about eating healthy and staying active. The things you brought to the students will be something that will help them throughout their lives. All of the fifth-graders enjoyed the grand finale held in the high school gym on May 5. It was all they could talk about when we got back to school. I commend your organization and wish you success in your future.

Ray Young, Principal, Hugo Intermediate School



Angela Burns and Councilman James Frazier.

Hughes County Premium Sale

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you for supporting me in the Hughes County Premium Livestock Show. Your support was really appreciated.

Angela Burns, Dustin, Oklahoma

Thank you to all

Dear Editor,

I would like to say thank you to the BISHINIK for the paper, calendars and cards sent to me each year. And for all the help I've received from all the different people and programs in the past. A big thanks to our Chief and his wonderful staff at the Choctaw clinics and the medicines received that help me stay alive. Also for helping me fix my home when needed. The food programs the Choctaw Nation offers are very beneficial. I want to say I am very proud of my Indian heritage and have always been. Thank you for all the help and nice people in the Choctaw Nation.

Katherine E. Stocks

Cemetery restored

Dear Chief Pyle and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Terry Cole, Nathan Scott, Olin Williams and Randy Heck,

The Timberhill Community would like to thank you for all your help in restoring our cemetery. During the recent grass fires our cemetery was completely burned. Your quick response to our needs is greatly appreciated.

Help came when needed

Dear Editor,

My family and I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for helping us out just when we needed it. May God bless our Chief and all who work for the Choctaw Nation for their understanding and dedication in doing their job for the Indian people.

The Head Family, Poteau, Oklahoma

Student appreciates tribe's participation

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you for the purchasing of my Berkshire barrow at the Oklahoma Youth Expo Premium Auction. The money I received will help with next year's agriculture projects. Some of it will also go into my savings for college expenses in the future. Your valuable support of 4-H and FFA is greatly appreciated.

Ethan Rowell

Hard work put into activities

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you for all the hard work that you put into the program. It was really fun. Thanks for all the prizes. I really appreciated you taking up your time to keep us healthy. You guys always put hard work into all the activities that you did with us. I just can't tell you how much I enjoyed doing activities with you. I really enjoyed May 3 when we went to the Hugo high school. Thank you for making everything free and fun.

Garrett Sill

Searching for family members

Dear Editor,

I am trying to find family members for my aunt. She is 77 years old and would love to meet her father's half-brothers or half-sisters' family. Catherine Henderson, or Kate or Kitty as some called her, had two children by Turner Burris – Isham and Caroline Burris. If anyone knows these people, would you please contact me – Dana Burris, RR 3 Box 630, Muldrow, OK 74948. Thank you.

Home improvements appreciated

Dear Editor,

I would like to say thank you to Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Councilman Kenny Bryant for their efforts on my behalf in obtaining replacement windows in my home. They make a great difference in the heating and cooling of the home and they are greatly appreciated.

David Washington, Heavener, Oklahoma

Thank you for the medical facilities

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am a new tribal member and just want to thank the Chief and all others who make it possible for Native Americans to have a wonderful place to go for medical treatment. I had to have reconstruction surgery on my lower back due to an accident. And of course I have been out of work and with no insurance to pay for medications, I turned to the Choctaw Nation for help. I have diabetes and went to the wellness center for my medications and exam. They were more than happy to help me.

I just wanted Chief Pyle and his staff to know that the clinics and hospital were far above my expectations and the staff and doctors were the most organized and professional people I have ever encountered in my 50 years of being on this earth. Never have I seen such a well-organized, well-kept facility and workforce. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their help and for the care and hospitality they gave to me while I was there and of course my thanks to the Choctaw people for helping when I needed it. A big thanks to Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey for their abilities to put together such a remarkable team.

Rick Morris, Panhandle, Texas

From desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle ...

Honoring Code Talkers from Capitol Hill is long overdue

Asking Congress to give medals to our Code Talkers is a battle on Capitol Hill to commemorate a communication weapon – that weapon was the Choctaw language used in WWI by humble men serving their country as volunteer soldiers in the U.S. Army. On foreign soil, where French, German, and English languages blended as frequently as blood, another language – a unique language – was heard. A group of Choctaws were speaking to each other in their Native tongue, their first language, in words that were most familiar to them.

Overheard by a superior officer, these Choctaw men were asked what they were speaking. The officer immediately had the beginning of an idea that grew into one of the most successful ploys by the Allied Forces in the first World War.

Using the Choctaw language to transmit messages in the field confounded the enemy. Even though the phone lines were tapped and

Attention Code Talker Descendants:

A documentary is being filmed on the Choctaw Code Talkers by Red-Horse Native Productions. Information is being sought from all families and friends of the original Code Talkers of World War I, and also from the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War II. If you have stories to tell, pictures to show, or letters to share, please contact Valerie Red-Horse at (818) 705-2588 or write her at 6028 Calvin Avenue, Tarzana, California 91356 or valerie@executivespecialties.com.

the conversations overheard, the Germans could not interpret what was said. The language of our ancestors literally fooled the very sophisticated German Army.

Certain Choctaw words were used as "code" such as *one, two, three hills of corn* when talking about battalions and *little gun shoot fast* to indicate machine guns.

The language and therefore the "code" remained unbroken. The success of this Code Talking effort was so tremendous, the military used it again, incorporating different tribes and classifying the information so the tactic

could also be used in World War II.

When I hear Choctaws speak in everyday conversation, it comes to mind what casual use we make of a classified weapon used in two world wars by the United States Armed Services. To think, an unwritten language a century ago, used by country boys from Oklahoma, was a force to be reckoned with.

Support for the legislation in both the Senate and the House is gaining momentum, but there are still many who have not signed on. Please contact your United States Senator and Rep-



A delegation of Choctaw, Sioux and Comanche leaders recently visited Washington, D.C., to lobby for the passage of the Code Talker Recognition Act, introduced in the Senate by Senator James Inhofe and in the House by Representative Kay Granger. Pictured here are Patrick Loney of Evergreen Associates, Sioux Tribal Member Andrea Page, Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Comanche Veterans Advocate Lanny Asepermy, Senator James Inhofe, Sioux Veteran Don Loudner, Comanche Chairman Wallace Coffee, Choctaw Veteran Bertram Bobb and Sioux member Mary Monsees.

resentative and request that they co-sponsor the Code Talker Recognition Act (S. 1035 and HR

4597). This act honors Code Talkers from all tribes with a specially minted medal. I hope

that you will take action and be a participant in getting this legislation passed.

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey ...

Summer Youth Program to employ 1,500

Jobs continue to be a priority of this administration, and the continued expansion of the Summer Youth Program is just one example of what the tribe is doing to create employment opportunities.

Close to 1,500 young people will be working for five weeks beginning in early June, thanks to about \$340,000 federal dollars and another \$1,750,000 in tribal funds allocated by the Council and the Chief.

Expanding tribal businesses

such as the Resort and Casino creates jobs, and also creates additional revenue to put into programs such as the Summer Youth.

Money from economic development projects also provides the dollars needed to build new clinics and tribal facilities, which in turn, also means additional job opportunities.

The youth who work through the summer program are able to earn money to spend any way they need, whether it be school

clothes, supplies, car payments, gas or whatever. This is a tremendous help to them and their family.

More valuable than the money earned is the experience gained through the job. These young people learn work ethics as well as skills and many times, they find where their interests are for the future. It is very rewarding to see them succeed in life, due partly to the opportunities presented to them through our tribe.

How we thank God for His promises in the Bible

As Christians we have much to be thankful for. We thank Him for His love. He loved us first before we loved Him. (1 John 4:19). We thank Him for His only begotten Son. (John 3:16). We thank God for the gospel – the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). He has the answer to the needs of every individual worldwide.

One of the deepest mysteries of life is that of birth. The birth of babies in the image and likeness of parents.

But the mystery of the new birth (John 3:3) is even deeper, though the similarity of the births are something to think about.

When you were born you received a life for which you had done nothing and in which you had no part. It was the gift of your parents. They generated your life and paid the price for it in pain and labor and blood. All you did was receive it. So also it is with the new birth.

The new birth is the work of Another. You were dead in sin, and a dead man is helpless. The new life therefore must come from elsewhere, outside of yourself. This new life comes from Jesus Christ.

When a child is born into this world of natural parents it receives two things. There are many things which he receives but I will mention only two.

1. A position – a legal standing in the family.

2. A nature – which is the nature of that family.

This happens also in the new birth. The moment the sinner is born again, he receives a legal position in the family of God and becomes a child of God.

"But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:12).

This we call justification. The robe of righteousness of God and of Jesus Christ is given to the sinner, and he stands before God clothed in that righteous-

ness of Christ as though he had never sinned. Justified! Just-as-if-I'd never sinned. A pardoned man.

A man may be pardoned for a crime for which he has done, but the pardon does not remove his guilt. He is as guilty as ever, even though he is free, but when God saves a sinner through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, God does more than pardon. God removes the remembrance of sin.

In addition to this, the believer in Jesus Christ receives a new nature the moment he is born again. Nothing happens to the old nature.

Every born again man is two men, the old man and the new man. The old man is corrupt and sinful, and he cannot do any spiritual good, while the new man is a perfect man – perfect and sinless. The old man is of the first Adam by our first, natural birth; the new man is of the last Adam, Jesus Christ, by a second, spiritual birth. The old man, the flesh, is not done away with, nor replaced by the new nature, but remains unchanged within the believer, no better than it ever was before. Instead of repairing it, God creates within that believer a new, holy, sinless nature to one day reign with Him.

The presence of two natures in the believer is the reason for the struggle within every Christian. The old and the new are opposed. The old continually tempts us to sin; the new always seeks to please God in everything and all times.

The believer must know the presence of the old nature, and must constantly be on guard against its onslaught. Even at times when we live in the closest spiritual relationship with God, when we seem to have complete victory over the old nature with its passions and temptations, we must still be constantly on guard lest the old nature brings itself forth and cause us to fall at the very moment when we seem to be most secure.

When we know this truth, we can better understand the secret



Chaplain's Corner

The Rev. Bertram Bobb

of victory. How can we know this victory?

First, recognize that in you, that is, in your flesh, dwelleth no good thing. Then recognize that in spite of all your failures, and struggling you are perfect in Christ. God sees you in Him. While you cry out because of your weakness, yet you rejoice in the fact that because your salvation depends on Christ and not on your behavior, you still are safe in spite of your failure.

The man who said, "I know that in me dwelleth no good thing" could also cry, "There is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus." This man was the Apostle Paul. (Romans 7:18; 8:1).

Your victory depends on the Lord Jesus Christ, not on you. Realizing then, that only in Christ is victory as well as salvation, you turn the struggle over to Him in complete yielding and surrender and the victory comes and peace is yours.

This message is to Christians, Born Again believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps you are not a Christian, "I realize I am a sinner, I believe Jesus Christ and I trust Him and Him alone as my personal Savior." You pray this prayer by faith. John says in John 1:12, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

I want to help you further in your Spiritual Life. Write to me at P.O. Box 9, Antlers, OK 74523.

May God bless you in a very special way and remember to pray for our nations and for our leaders.



A group of Summer Youth gathered last year on the steps of the Tribal headquarters in Durant before leaving on a field trip. With them are Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Council Speaker Mike Amos.

Tribes present gift to SOSU Student Union

The announcement of the largest single gift – \$700,000 – to the new Student Union at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant was made in a special signing ceremony on the campus featuring Chickasaw Governor Bill Anoatubby, SOSU President Glen Johnson and Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma are each giving \$350,000 to the new \$14.5 million Student Union at the University, which is scheduled to open this fall.

"This is indeed an historic day at Southeastern Oklahoma State University," said Southeastern President Dr. Glen D. Johnson. "The citizens of

Oklahoma and Southeastern Oklahoma State University are fortunate to have partners such as the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. Statewide, through their compact agreements and gaming revenues, these Native American tribes have greatly supported education,

health care, and transportation. This support has been directed by the leadership provided by Chief Greg Pyle of the Choctaw Nation and Gov. Bill Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation. Today's gift is another example of the commitment the Choctaw Nation and the Chickasaw Nation continue to make to higher education and the future of Oklahoma."

"It is great to see a united effort on such an important project," said Chief Pyle.

The Choctaw Nation gift of \$350,000 will fund the Choctaw Nation Lecture Hall/Classroom, the Choctaw Nation Computer Lounge, and the Choctaw Nation Federal Program Suite, to be located on the second floor of the union.

"The Choctaw Nation is pleased to be a partner with the Chickasaw Nation and Southeastern Oklahoma State University for the betterment of students in higher education," said Chief Pyle. "Together, we can achieve a great deal that will benefit our students and citizens for many years to come. We are proud to support the building of the new Student Union at Southeastern and are excited about the future."

The Chickasaw Nation gift will fund the Chickasaw Nation Student Services Suite and the

Chickasaw Nation Computer Lounge, to be located on the third floor.

"It is our honor to be a partner in improving all aspects of the higher education endeavor," said Governor Anoatubby. "There is a bright future waiting for students throughout Oklahoma who have the talent, the perseverance and the drive to achieve their college degrees. These students are tomorrow's leaders."

The University's goal is to raise \$2.8 million in private funds for the student union; to date, approximately \$1.6 million in private funds has been raised, leaving a remaining goal of approximately \$1.2 million. The tribes' gift is the latest in a number of partnerships between Southeastern and the



Chickasaw Governor Bill Anoatubby, SOSU President Dr. Glen D. Johnson, and Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle at a special signing ceremony for the university's new Student Union.

Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations:

In 2002, an agreement was signed among the Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, and Southeastern Oklahoma State University regarding the funding of the renovation of the

Choctaw and Chickasaw Residence Halls and the implementation of an academic advising plan that focused on the recruitment of Native American students at Southeastern.

The Choctaw Nation and Southeastern received a \$965,000 grant last year from the U.S. Dept. of Education to support new scholarship opportunities for Native American students at SOSU.

The Chickasaw Nation has also proved to be a valuable partner in a number of key educational initiatives. The Nation is supporting Southeastern's academic counseling and advising programs, which assist students in making career decisions which will benefit them for the rest of their lives. They have supported the John Massey School of Business through enhancement of faculty positions, assistance in achieving accreditation, and helped in developing the Native American management option.

"The tribes' gift four years ago to renovate our residence halls and provide academic advisement to our Native American students was the catalyst for what has now turned out to be a \$63 million construction program underway at Southeastern Oklahoma State University," President Johnson said.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Take your workout off the beaten path

There's nothing like getting away from it all.

But vacations seem to come too far and few between. One way to escape the pressures and hectic pace of "city" life is to head to the hills. Hiking as a form of fitness is surging in popularity and it isn't hard to see why - it's a great mind/body exercise.

SAFETY FIRST

The essentials of hiking are similar to walking - they are simply taken off road. The best way to get started is to find a safe, cleared path - many state parks have trails marked out with distances and the approximate time it takes to go from point A to point B. For added safety, take a friend or your dog along, and never go hiking after dark.

Another reason to stick to the trails: poison oak or ivy. Your best defense against these skin irritants is to stay clear of them. Don't trust yourself to identify these pesky plants; stick to the trail and avoid brushing against foliage whenever possible.

SHOE ESSENTIALS

Shoes with good traction are an absolute must, particularly if you plan to head up or down any hills. Many manufacturers make shoes designed specifically for trail walking, although you can get by with a good pair of running or walking shoes.

KEEP YOUR ENERGY UP

It's always a good idea to bring along some water and even a snack when heading out, even for shorter hikes. Don't let yourself get so distracted by the beautiful sights around you that you forget to drink fluids and become dehydrated. Drink at least 4 ounces of water every 20 minutes or so, even when the weather is cold.

Dress in layers, particularly during unpredictable weather seasons such as spring and fall. Insect repellent and plenty of sunscreen also are essential. You may want to invest in a day pack that straps around your waist to keep these items close at hand.

PACING YOURSELF

How fast you take to the trails is up to you and what you want to accomplish. A hike can be an intense workout or a time to relax your mind and enjoy nature, or both - the choice is yours.

If you want to increase the intensity of your workout, hills are a great way to do it. When starting out, take it easy and give your muscles, particularly your quadriceps (the front of the thigh) and your calves, time to adapt to the increased demands of hiking.

Once you've been hiking regularly for a few weeks, give yourself a challenge by tackling a hill or two. Not only will this increase your muscular strength and endurance, you'll notice a big improvement in your cardiovascular endurance as well.

READY, SET, HIKE!

Hiking is a great activity to add to your existing fitness regimen. Not only can it add variety and spice up your routine, but integrating hiking into your workouts also will give you the benefits of cross training.

Rather than giving the same muscles the same workout day after day, hiking will challenge your muscles to perform in a whole new way. But perhaps the greatest benefit of hiking is the chance to get away from it all, if only for just a short while.

For information call Wellness Education / REACH 2010 at 1-800-349-7026, ext. 6044 or 6958.



REACH 2010 Wellness Program takes a hike

The REACH 2010 program (which focuses on physical activity promotion), visited the Talihina third grade, and the Albion third/ fourth grade on a monthly basis throughout the school year to provide education and hands on activity teaching the components of physical fitness and healthy nutritional choices. On May 8, to reward the kids at the end of the program, the Choctaw Nation REACH 2010 staff, Teresa Frederick and Doris Ward, accompanied Talihina and Albion school staff and parent volunteers to the Kerr Arboretum on the Talimena Scenic Drive for a nature hike field trip. The kids enjoyed educational sessions on the life cycle, and archeology presented by the Ouachita National Forest staff. They then hiked the nature trail, had sack lunches, then again enjoyed the poisonous and non-poisonous snake presentation by the forestry staff (with live snakes displayed.) There were a total of 53 kids present.

The REACH staff would like to thank the school staff, parent volunteers, and the Ouachita National Forest staff for making the trip possible.

Parent Alert: Help keep your kids tobacco-free

Parents, talk to your kids on how not to get trapped by nicotine. Tell them the facts.

Nicotine in cigarettes, cigars, and spit tobacco is addictive. Nicotine narrows your blood vessels and puts added strain on your heart. Smoking can damage your lungs and reduce oxygen available for muscles which are especially used during sport activities. Smokers suffer shortness of breath almost three times more often than non-smokers. Smokers run slower and can't run as far, affecting overall athletic performance. Cigars and spit tobacco are not safe alternatives. Kids who use tobacco may cough and have asthma attacks more often and develop respiratory problems leading to more sick days, more doctor bills, and poorer athletic performance. Kids who use tobacco are more likely to use alcohol and other drugs. Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death in the United States causing heart disease, cancers, and strokes.

Parents, take a stand at home early and often. Despite the impact of movies, music, and TV, parents can be the greatest influence in your kid's life. Talk directly to your kids about the risk of tobacco usage. If a friend or relative has died from tobacco related illnesses, let your children know the facts and how it could have been preventable. If you use tobacco yourself, you can still make a difference. Your best move, of course, is to try to quit. Meanwhile, don't use tobacco in your child's presence, don't offer it to them, and don't leave it where they can have easy access to any tobacco product.

Start today and develop a dialogue with your child about tobacco usage (preferred age 5 or 6 if possible) and continue throughout their high school years. Many kids start using tobacco by age 11, and many are addicted by age 14. Get to know your kid's friends and their values when it comes to tobacco usage and talk about peer pressure on how to refuse tobacco products. One important issue for discussion should be how media can give a false glamorization of tobacco products through tobacco billboards, media, TV, and even magazines glamorize tobacco products. Finally get active with your local school and encourage the school to adopt and enforce a tobacco-free policy for students, parents and school professionals on all school property.

CHOCTAW NATION SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS

Choctaw Youth 8 years to 18 years

Baseball: June 15-16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Silo High School
June 19-20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Wilburton - Eastern College
June 22-23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Cameron High School
June 26-27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Idabel High School

Football: July 3-4, Registration/start 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
McAlester High School

Softball: July 13-14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Wilburton - Eastern College
July 17-18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Durant - Billy Miller Fields
July 20-21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Broken Bow North & South Park

Cultural Enrichment Camp: July 31-August 3
check-in 3 p.m.-5 p.m. on July 31
Minnitanka Camp Ground, Clayton, Oklahoma

Full month of June is basketball - check your local Field Office for time, dates, location and applications.

For more information, contact Choctaw Nation 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2504 or 2134.



Happy Heart participants enjoy day at the lake

Beautiful Cedar Lake, near Hodgen, Oklahoma, was the site of a fun walk/hike sponsored by the "Happy Heart" program and the Diabetes Wellness Center in Talihina.

Despite the early morning rain shower, 11 participants and four staff of the "Happy Heart" program walked/hiked around the scenic 2.9 mile trail around the lake on April 21.

Bottled water, granola bars and fruit were provided for on-the-trail refreshments. A sandwich lunch was provided for all after the walk, along

with some positive fellowship. Fun was apparently had by all.

The "Happy Heart" program hopes to have many more similar community activities in the future and would like to encourage all within the Choctaw Nation and beyond to stay active for a healthy heart.

We are still accepting participants into the "Happy Heart" Program. If you would like to know more about participating in this program please call 1-800-349-7162, ext. 6957 or 6545.

McAlester

continued from Page 1

"The Choctaw Nation is recognized nationally as well as locally in the area of health care," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "Other Choctaw clinics are in Stigler, Idabel, Talihina, Poteau, Broken Bow and Hugo."

Chief Pyle also talked about projects in the works for improved access to health care for the Choctaws. "We plan to build a clinic in Atoka, a new clinic in Broken Bow, and a pharmacy refill facility in Poteau."

"Thank you to all of the employees and all of the tribal businesses who work so hard to create revenue that builds facilities like this clinic, debt free," said Assistant Chief Mike Bailey. Both he and the Chief talked about the importance of ensuring funds are spent wisely so that future generations are not saddled with debt.

Attorney General Drew Edmondson joined the Choctaws to celebrate. "You are turning dirt today that has been consecrated by the blood and sweat and tears of your parents and grandparents, so in a way, it is a holy ceremony."

"Thank you, Choctaw Nation for helping to build a future for all of our children. Thank you for the wisdom of your Chief and for all the things you have done for all of us in Oklahoma."

"The Choctaw Nation believes in working together to make life better for everyone," said local Tribal Councilman Bob Pate, whose community center has a wall-length sign that proclaims *Together We Can Make A Difference*.

"We have been looking forward to this for a long time," said Pate.

He added with a grin, "Sometimes a longer wait just makes things better. This clinic is going to be so nice that we're going to need a plastic surgeon to get the smiles off our faces!"

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
J U L Y	A Vocational Rehabilitation representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday thru Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.						1
	2	3 Antlers by appt only	4 HOLIDAY	5 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	6	7 Idabel 10 am-2 pm	8
	9	10 Durant 10 am-2 pm	11 Stigler by appt only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	12 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	13	14 Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm	15
	16	17	18	19 Wright City by appt only	20	21 Poteau 11:30 am-1 pm	22
	23	24 Durant by appt	25 Crowder and McAlester by appt only	26 Wilburton 10:30 am-2 pm	27	28 Bethel by appt only	29
	30	31					
	2 0 0 6						

Healthy Living = Longer Life

Third annual Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles Taskforce Poster/Essay Contest

Did you know by the time our children reach eighth grade nearly 50 percent of them have at least one drink, and 20 percent report having been "drunk?" Children and teens need to know how to reject underage alcohol use and how potentially damaging underage drinking is to their health today and tomorrow. Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles Taskforce is trying to help make a difference in this by focusing their third annual poster/essay contest on Underage Drinking.

They chose these topics for the contest: Harmful Effects of Underage Drinking, Alternatives to Using Alcohol - Why Drink When You Could..., Why Do You Think Young People Start to Drink? and How to Resist Peer Pressure to Use Alcohol.

The response to this year's contest was great with a total of 703 posters and 167 essays submitted. Each participant received a duffel bag. The winners are as follows:

Poster winners:

- K-3rd grade: first place, Brantlee Avants, Lane; second

place, River Sonntag, Fort Towson; and third place, Joshua Finks, McAlester.

- 4th-5th grade: first place, Taylor Wall, Talihina; second place, Zachary Curran, Talihina; and third place, Deven PettyJohn, Hugo.

- 7th-9th grade: first place, Ivette White, Panola; second place, Casey Rowden, Panola; and third place, Dustin Hill, McAlester.

- 10th-12th grade: first place, Paula Atteberry, Smithville; second place, Sarah Rowden, Hugo; and third place, Antione Hughes, Hugo.

Essay Winners:

- 4th-6th: first place, Sherita Patterson, Quinton; second place, Kris Helm, Talihina; and third place, Casey McKosky, Talihina.

- 7th-9th: first place, Kaitlyn Crawford, Boswell; second place, Cody Todd, Leflore; and third place, Amber Kerns, Panola.

- 10th-12th: first place, Danielle Maria Curran, Arkoma; second place, Shelby Thomason, Arkoma; and third place, Lisa Gray, Hugo.

Fifth-graders rewarded for most steps

GET MOVIN'

For the past school year Choctaw Naation Healthy Lifestyles has been presenting a program called GET MOVIN' to the fifth-graders in Boswell, Hugo, Clayton, Coalgate and Atoka schools.

Reducing the burden of diabetes and obesity was the focus for the GET MOVIN' project which was a one-year grant. The Healthy Lifestyles staff had students record the amount of steps taken for each month and taught them how to make healthy choices to last a lifetime.

They wanted to end the school year with a bang so they had a GET MOVIN' finale that promoted exercise and healthy eating. On May 5, approximately 300 fifth-graders and teachers were bused to the Hugo High School gym. The students were in "awe" when they walked in to see a 20-foot inflatable rock wall, 360-degree obstacle course and inflatable bungee run. The fifth-graders also got to experience the game of "ships and sailors," soccer relay, balloon relay, cone game and hula hoop game.



The students received awards for participating in the GET MOVIN' program.

The following fifth-graders received bicycles for taking the most steps overall for their school:

Hugo: Lorena Taylor and Dustin Freeman

Boswell: Kassie Parsons and Omar Rocha

Atoka: Kade Randall and Bret Carr

Coalgate: Megan Holified and Drew Sims

Clayton: Amy Davis and Hunter Mitchell

The girl who took the most

steps for each class received a soak and splash water slide and the boy who took the most steps received a fishing pole.

The Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles staff hopes everyone had a great time and would like to thank all of the teachers, students and all of the people who helped out that day.

Parents, we would like to leave you with these tips on ways for you and your kids to GET MOVIN' this summer:

- * Buy a set of hand weights and play a round of Simon Says with your kids - you do it with the weights, they do it without.

- * Swim with your kids.

- * Walk with your kids.

And remember if you think of getting active as one more thing on your long to-do list, you'll never GET MOVIN'.

You don't need to go to the gym five times a week to be healthy. For instance, did you know that a 45-minute walk at a brisk pace (3 to 4 miles an hour) can burn up to 300 calories? Or that by making small changes in your daily routine - like parking further away, taking the stairs, and playing active games with your kids - you can start living an active, healthy life?

To the youth of the Nation...

Say NO to Alcohol!!!

What you should be doing

What is the matter with kids today? Does alcohol have something to do with it? Do you know how many kids have been pressured to drink alcohol and agreed to do it? If you were a parent and your kid hung out with a group of people that constantly drink, would you put a stop to it or would you just stand by and watch it? What is in alcohol that makes it so addictive and makes kids want more and more of it?

The worst thing about alcohol is that a lot of kids have been under peer pressure and have been pretty much forced to try alcohol. When I say forced, I don't mean physically, but mentally. The reason people are trying to pressure them into it usually means the people who are drinking ask them continuously until they say okay just to make those people leave them alone. Sometimes, after the first drink though, they can't stop drinking.

Instead of drinking alcohol you could be living your life to its fullest. Life is too short to waste away by drinking alcohol. When you drink, you are setting a bad example, then in the future, if the child that looked up to you did something famous, you can say, "I set a good example and that kid followed it." Then, you will be able to say you did something worth remembering when you were younger.

If you drink, kids won't look up to you. They will probably think, "That person is the wrong person for me to be like, and they always drink. They are a bad example." When that happens, you will be wondering why you threw your life away for something so horrible like drinking alcohol. Alcohol shouldn't be the reason for your death. Alcohol accidents are the worst way to die. Drunk driving accidents are the number one cause for death in the world. When someone decides to drink and drive, don't get in the vehicle with them. That will probably be the worst mistake of your life. Don't EVER drink and drive or get into a vehicle with a drunk driver, because you pretty much seal your fate when you get in with a drunk driver.

If you have been partying with some friends and one of them has had too many drinks, are you going to let them drive? If you have had too much to drink, you need to call someone to come pick you up. Don't try to drive because you will make a big difference in the lives of the people around you. Very many people will miss you once you're gone. Please, say NO to alcohol because you will make a lot of people very sad because of one stupid, horrible mistake.

Head Start enrollment continues

Families, of all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds who have young children are encouraged to apply for free Head Start services at the local Choctaw Nation Head Start Pre-School. Foster families, families receiving assistance such as TANF, SSI, food stamps, food distribution, or who have a child with special needs, are strongly encouraged to apply for enrollment in Choctaw Nation Head Start. Choctaw Nation Head Start serves as a strong advocate for all enrolled children and their families. Enrollment applications for fall 2006 are being taken now, but enrollment slots are limited, so quick action is important.

The pre-school educational services provided by Choctaw Nation meet the educational guidelines of the Oklahoma State Department of Education for public school system pre-school classes. Head Start staff are specially trained to provide age-appropriate art activities, educational instruction, social/emotional interactions, and indoor/outdoor physical activities. The program provides tasty nutritious meals, as well as teaching children that good food is important to their health and well-being.

The Head Start program assists families of young children to access a vast network of services. We offer referrals to help Head Start families to fulfill their needs and to reach the goals and dreams that they have for their family's future. The safety and health of children are our most important concerns and we take the safety and health of your child very seriously.

Contact your local Choctaw Nation Head Start Center for an enrollment application. For more information, call your local Choctaw Nation Head Start Center; or the Head Start administration office at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2373, ask for Zene Dill; or ext. 2460 and ask for Brenda Ivie.

June is Children's Awareness Month

By Jeremy Bull, CARES Project Media Specialist

Current statistics estimate that the population of individuals in state and federal prison facilities will soon reach 1.5 million. Several opinions and theories exist to explain the growing number of individuals behind bars. A lack of education, failing social care systems, even our diets have been identified as causes. Regardless of the causes, most people would agree that all of these people were once children with the same universal energy and innocence that all children have. They were kids with hopes and dreams and no past to tarnish their futures.

Unfortunately, not all children have the wonderful childhood we all hope to provide for our own children. Millions of kids grow up in fear and neglect. They grow up witnessing violence and domestic abuse on a daily basis. Research has shown that children who witness violence at home display emotional and

behavioral disturbances as diverse as withdrawal, low self-esteem, nightmares, self-blame, and aggression against peers, family members, and property.

Children's Awareness Month focuses on increasing awareness of the vulnerability of children to violence. It is also about being able to spot early warning signs of emotional and behavioral problems and taking action. Whether it is violence in the home, in the neighborhood or even on television, parents and all adults should be aware of the effects that continued exposure to violence can have on children. Our future depends on the quality of life we provide to our children today. We owe it to them and society at large to provide a nurturing and violence-free environment during their formative and most vulnerable years.

For more information, contact the Choctaw Nation CARES Project at (918)-567-4128. Hvpim Vila Chipunta Yvt Pi Nitak Tjka Minti, "Our Children Are Our Future."

CARES Project hosts SAMHSA site visit team

A site visit team from Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), along with the Council Oaks Evaluation Staff, recently visited the Choctaw Nation CARES Project in Talihina, Oklahoma.

During the 2 1/2-day site visit, team members visited with CARES Project staff, partners, families, and clients. Topics of discussion included strategic and sustainability planning, children and family services and support, system level coordination and management structure, fiscal management, family and youth partnerships, public education, evaluation, service records, and cultural and linguistic competence.

Pictured are SAMHSA site visit team members, Council Oaks evaluation staff, and CARES Project staff at the CARES Project Office.



Language program honors two for contributions

An end-of-the-year event for the Choctaw Language program brought students from all over the Choctaw Nation to a luncheon in Durant recently.

Pictured are Program Director Terry Regan, Council Speaker Mike Amos, honorees Adeline Hudson and Joy Culbreath, State Representative Lisa Billy, and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

Adeline and Joy were presented with Pendleton blankets to thank them for their contributions in keeping the Native language alive.

Choctaw language is being taught in 43 public schools, two colleges and three universities, as well as on the Internet and in many community centers.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

July 3

Stigler 9 a.m.-12 noon
Poteau (A-L) 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

July 4

Tribal Holiday

July 5

Idabel 9-11 a.m.
Broken Bow 12 noon-2 p.m.

July 6

Bethel 9-10:30 a.m.
Smithville 12 noon-2 p.m.

July 7

Poteau (M-Z) 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

July 10

Warehouses open

July 27

Last day for warehouses

July 28 & 31

Closed for inventory

Food Distribution Program workers will take a 30-minute lunch break from 11:30 to 12 noon. Please bring boxes with you to pick up your commodities. If you cannot pick up commodities when you are scheduled, please notify the Food Distribution Office at 800-522-6170 so they can tell you where you need to go.

ANTLERS: Choctaw Community Center, 306 S.W. "O" St.

BETHEL: Choctaw Community Building.

BROKEN BOW: Choctaw Family Investment Center.

DURANT: Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr.

IDABEL: Choctaw Village Shopping Center.

McALESTER: Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 1212 S. Main.

POTEAU: Choctaw Family Investment Center.

SMITHVILLE: Big Lick Church.

STIGLER: Choctaw Community Building.

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PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Moyers resident passes century mark

Chief Gregory E. Pyle wished full-blood Choctaw Mattie Simpy Northrip of Moyers a very happy 100th birthday on her recent visit to the Tribal headquarters in Durant. A big celebration was held at the Moyers Baptist Church for this special lady on her birthday, May 20.

She was born near Moyers, Indian Territory, in 1906, the only daughter of Lasit and Sally Simpy. Orphaned by the age of 11, Mattie was raised by an aunt and uncle until she graduated the eighth grade. She married Joe Henry Northrip in 1927 and they had two children, John Henry and Floyd. She lost her husband and a few years later, her son, John Henry. She has two grandsons, a granddaughter and four great-grandchildren.

Mattie worked for many years as a domestic for families and retired at the young age of 83.

Happy birthday, Lee Roy

Happy birthday to Lee Roy Ward who celebrated his 91st birthday on April 22, from your children and grandkids. His parents were Eastman Ward and Sybil Frazier of Miller, Oklahoma.



Happy 16th birthday

Happy 16th birthday to Jared Bowlen. Jared, a sophomore at THS in Tenino, Washington, is the son of Rick and Loretta Bowlen; grandson of Charles and the late Carolyn Teel Pole; and great-grandson of the late Robert "Bob" and Ethel Delaney Teel, originally of Broken Bow. Watch out, he's getting his drivers license! Happy birthday wishes are also being sent from his aunts, Vicki Garner of Witts Springs, Arkansas, and Janet Parker of Riddle, Oregon.



Birthdays and baby news

Happy birthday to Freeman Christopher John who celebrated his 26th birthday on May 31. He is the son of Alfreda John and the late Freeman John of Choctaw, Mississippi. Also, happy belated birthday to Lucy Ann Hardy of Lawrence, Kansas, who turned one year old on March 7. She is the daughter of Melissa Hardy, Lawrence, and Rodney Billy, Carthage, Mississippi. Lucy is the granddaughter of Julie and Jesse Ray Hardy, Lawrence, and the great-granddaughter of the late Lucy and Justin Hardy.

Congratulations to Felicia Ann John, Choctaw, Mississippi, on the birth of Trishelle Latrice John on March 15, 2006, in Meridian, Mississippi. Felicia is the daughter of Alfreda John and the late Freeman John, Choctaw. She weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces.

Congratulations to Melissa Hardy and Rodney Billy on the birth of their daughter, Cyrenity Marie Hardy-Billy. Cyrenity was born February 7, 2006, at Lawrence, weighing 7 pounds 6 ounces. Melissa is the granddaughter of the late Lucy and Justin Hardy and the daughter of Julie and Jesse Ray Hardy, Lawrence.

Jayson turns 1

Jayson Mattheau Zasimowich celebrated his first birthday on April 25. Jayson is the son of Jenyfer Dove and Michael Zasimowich Jr. Jayson's "doting" grandmothers are Shirley Zasimowich and Danyne Dove. His other grandparents are Tim and Betty Dove and the late Mike Zasimowich. The joyous celebration took place at home among plenty of family members. Happy first birthday, Hattak Ossi!



Thank you

Kylee Ann Hampton, 3, wants to thank everyone who helped with donations to go to the Sunburst State Beauty Pageant Finals. Kylee won a six-foot trophy and four-inch crown for ad sales; second runner-up in daycare wear; second runner-up in swimwear; third runner-up in beauty; second runner-up in modeling; third runner-up in photogenic; first runner-up in portfolio; first runner-up in composite. She placed in every event she entered. Kylee wants to thank everyone for giving her the opportunity to experience such a fun weekend. Special thanks go to some special people who have helped her succeed with this goal: Chief Gregory E. Pyle; Assistant Chief Mike Bailey; Choctaw Nation and staff; Councilmen Jack Austin, Perry Thompson and Bob Pate; Billy Bailey; Sen. Jay Paul Gumm; Ronald D. Cox; Uncle Bobbie Archquette; Sullivan Ranch - Leo and Nancy Sullivan and Boswell Community Action Alliance. May God bless all of you with special hugs and kisses from me to you!



Summer turns 7

Steve and Helan Barnes wish their oldest daughter, Summer, a wonderful and blessed seventh birthday wish. Happy birthday!



Three generations of the Nicholson/Webster/Wood family met at a recent Choctaw gathering in Fort Worth, Texas.

Whittington competes in Junior National Championships

Divers 18 years of age and under competed in USA Diving's Junior National Championships, April 28-30, at the University of Minnesota. Andrew Whittington, 11, of Oklahoma City, who is a member of the USA Junior Diving Team competed in the 2006 West National Diving Championship in Minneapolis.

With over 200 divers competing from five different regions throughout the United States, Andrew brought home gold in all three events which included the 3 meter springboard, 1 meter springboard and platform. Andrew's clean sweep of the competition is the second straight year that Andrew has been crowned the Junior Olympic USA Diving's National Champion.

The top three divers in each age group category were invited to attend the 2006 U.S. Elite International Diving competition. This competition includes the top divers from the United States, Canada and possibly other surrounding countries.

Andrew is currently in Oklahoma City where he is an honor roll fifth-grader at Victory Christian Academy.



He's a teenager!

Preston Williams celebrated his 13th birthday on May 12. Preston is the son of Joe Williams of Norman and Tammy Williams of Oklahoma City. He is the grandson of Olin and Bernice Williams of Bennington, Jimmy and Sherry Brewer of Durant and Brenda Brewer of Durant. Preston completed the seventh grade this spring. His sister, Brittney; aunts, Crystal, Christine and Sarah; and uncles, Mark and Nathan, also wish him a happy birthday.



Shannon celebrates birthday

Shannon White Cloud Sampson is a senior at Capital Hill High School in Oklahoma City. She is also in the Dale Thomas Training Center. She celebrated her birthday on March 31 with family and friends. She is our very special young lady and we are all very proud of her. Her parents are Melissa Sampson and Omar Perez of Oklahoma City. Grandparents are Joe and LoRetta Easley of Oklahoma city. Great-grandmother is Cora Whitson of Ardmore.



Kenan turns 3!

Daniel Battiest and LaDonna Simpson would like to wish their son, Kenan Micah Battiest of Wright City, a happy third birthday on May 7. He celebrated with family and friends. Also wishing him a happy birthday are Kenan's grandparents, Luke and Viola Battiest of Wright City; his brother, Billy Simpson; and Papa Simpson of Eagletown.



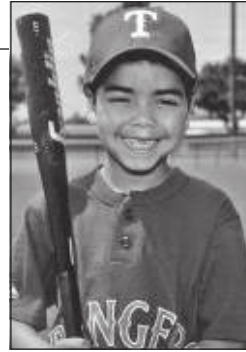
Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Kristine Hall of Sayre, Oklahoma. Kristine turned 18 years old on May 10. She would like to thank the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Program for considering her for a scholarship, for without the tribe's assistance, she probably wouldn't have been able to pursue her dream of attending college.



Look who's 7!

Will Priest of Katy, Texas, turned 7 on May 15. Will plays on the Rangers of the Katy Little League and is a star player for the champion Cobras of the Katy Soccer League as well as being an accomplished golfer. Will is the son of Jimmy and Charlotte Priest. He is very proud of his Choctaw heritage and loves to visit the tribal center in Durant.



Happy 24th, Mark

The family of Mark Tushka would like to wish him a happy 24th birthday on June 12. His mother is Peggy Tushka of Broken Bow. Mark's grandparents are Barrentine Tushka and Nancy Tushka of Broken Bow. He has a brother, Eric Tushka, and a sister, Patty Tushka, both of Broken Bow.



Happy 17th, Heather

The family of Heather Stillwell would like to wish her a happy belated birthday on May 27. She turned 17. She is a junior at Soper High School. Heather enjoys being with her friends, playing her guitar and mostly driving her car. She is the daughter of Bill Stillwell, the granddaughter of J.B. and Maxine Stillwell and Bradley's big sister. We wish her a very nice day.



Happy birthday

Cody Evans turned 15 in May and his brother, Dakota, will turn 12 in July. Their parents are Patricia and Wally of Sand Springs. Their grandparents are Loretta (Thompson) and Gary Perigo of Tulsa and Wally and Karen Evans of Indiana.



Blalock/Mayhew wed

Kristin Leann Blalock and Christopher Daniel Mayhew were married January 7, 2006, at the First Baptist Church of Durant. The Rev. Gerald Tidwell officiated the double-ring ceremony.

Kristin is the daughter of Everett and Jaquita Blalock of Durant. She is the granddaughter of Gladys Williams of Durant and the late B.L. "Tiny" Williams and George "Bud" and Lydia Belle Draper. Kristin is a junior at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.



Daniel is the son of Calvin and Retha Mayhew of Durant. He is the grandson of the late Bertie Granger and Jake and Lillie Mayhew. Daniel is a graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University and is employed by SOSU.

Ashley Damron of Durant, best friend of the bride, was maid of honor and Preston Guillory of Durant, best friend of the groom, was the best man.

The couple has established a home in Caddo, Oklahoma.

Happy birthday, Ella Frazier

On March 11, the family of Ella Cooper Beaver Frazier hosted a reception to celebrate her 90th birthday on March 18. The reception was held at the Limestone Senior Citizen Center, Groesbeck, Texas, and hosted by her daughters, Mary Thomas and Linda King. Family members presented Mrs. Frazier with collages of family portraits of their respective families.



California birthdays

Wishing our daughter, Valerie Nicole James, 19, and our son, Zachary Steven James, 5, of Downey, California, a very, very happy birthday! Also, wishing a happy Mother's Day to their grandmother, Geraldine James of Poteau - from Garry, Shelly, Anthony and Vanessa.



Hopkins celebrate 60 years

Thomas Lee and JoAnn Patterson Hopkins of Caddo celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 1. The couple was wed May 1, 1946. Their children are Alice and David Periman, Durant; Pamela and Mark Taylor, Denison, Texas; Vicky and Robert Hammons, Sherman, Texas; Jowanna and Shannon McDaniel, Durant; Connie Palmer, Durant; Thomas Jr. and Judy Hopkins and Mark and Lori Hopkins, Durant. Grandchildren are Norma Belvin; Steven and Angela Hider, Silo; Adam and Trisha Periman, South Lake, Texas; Victor Halk, Germany; Sonya Halk, Denison; Wendy Spaugh, Eulless, Texas; Lisa and Shannon Hoaglen, Sherman; David Spaugh, Sherman; Christy and Misty Hammons, Dallas; Dakota and Montana Hammons, Wichita Falls, Texas; Kent Springer, Durant; Keith Springer, Nashville, Tennessee; Justin and Doyle McDaniel, Antlers; Collin McDaniel, Durant; Jessica and Cole Palmer, Durant; Justin, Jonathan and Jamison Hopkins, Caddo; Brittany, Alexis and Christian Hopkins, Durant. Great-grandchildren are Brandon and Eric Sons, Idabel; Tucker James Periman, South Lake; Sadie and Ariel Halk, Denison; Clayton Simpson and Cody Hoaglen, Sherman.

'I'm 2!'

Colten Shane Blackwell, the son of Christopher Blackwell and Wendy Hill, turned 2 years old on April 7. Colten is the grandson of Christopher and Jacqueline Blackwell, Tommy and Lisa Hill; the great-grandson of Cletus and Jackie Echols, James and Gladys Blackwell; and the great-great-grandson of R.C. and Catherine Green. A birthday party was held in the park on Turkey Creek. His day was filled with playing outside, fishing, running after the puppies, eating, hugs, kisses and helping his Popa to feed cows, chickens, his pig, Hercules, and the dogs. Colten loved the time spent with the 8-week-old black bear cub, Sugar, while visiting his Great-uncle Jonathan or deer hunting deer with Popa and Great-uncle David.



Michelle celebrates 17th

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Michelle who turned 17 years old on April 23. She is the daughter of the Rev. Melvin and Corene Palmer of Idabel. Best wishes from your sisters, Robin and Dedra; brother, Michael; and Aunt Mary and Bandit.



Happy birthday, Melvin

Melvin turned ??? on May 14. Melvin is the son of the late Edward and Sophia Palmer. Have a happy birthday, from all of us - Corene, Michelle, Robin, Dedra, Michael, Mary and Bandit!!



Alex turns 7

Alexander Martin will celebrate his seventh birthday on June 16. He loves to play soccer and T-ball. His parents, Alfonso and Gwen; brother, Donovan, and sister, Vanessa, will celebrate his birthday with him.



Happy birthday wishes

Birthday wishes go out to Austin Jamison, turning 8 on June 17, the son of James and Janet Cook of Bokchito, grandson of the late Ray Tucker and Betty Black of Durant, from Grandma Betty; Derek Stonebarger, who will be 14 on July 29, son of Betty Black of Durant and Abraham Stonebarger of Marietta - his nephews and sisters wish him a happy birthday; and Zachary Jamison, turning 14 on August 14, son of James and Janet Cook of Bokchito, grandson of Betty Black of Durant and the late Ray Tucker and Lana and Larry Daniel of Yuba.

CVA constitution, bylaws available

The Choctaw Veteran's Association would like to announce that the newly adopted constitution and bylaws can be obtained at this time by contacting Melvin Tom at 580-584-6496 or Melvin@melvintom.com.

Fox serving in Iraq

2LT Amos C. Fox has been serving in Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, since November 2005. He is a great-great-grandson of original enrollee Alex Labor. Fox and fellow soldiers enjoy receiving letters and care packages. His address is:

2LT Fox, Amos C.
B/2-8IN, 2BCT, 4ID (M)
Unit # 40502
APO, AE 09312-0502

Choctaw member writes first book

Scott Roebuck of Fort Worth, Texas, has obtained a contract on his first book, "HookJaw."



The novel is a fictional account of a struggle between men who are sworn to protect the Constitution of the United States and rogue elements within the government. Roebuck has a degree in criminal justice from Texas A&M University, Commerce. While in college, he also studied British Law and Criminal Justice at Kings College in London, England. He earned memberships in both the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society and the Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society. He served eight years with the U.S. Marines where he provided security for a nuclear ordnance platoon. Deployed to the Middle East in 1991, he served in Operation Desert Storm with the First Marine Expeditionary Force and was nominated for a combat meritorious promotion for leadership during the war.

Being released by a Christian book publisher, "HookJaw" is a reflection of Roebuck's passion for the study of the Book of Revelation and end-time prophecy.

Way to go, Ashley!

Congratulations to Ashley DeLaRosa and the Associated Soccer Group FC Dallas 91 Gold soccer team. The team competed in the Copa Coca Cola Tournament in Dallas, Texas, April 29-30. They played great and won first place. Because of their first place finish, the team traveled to Los Angeles, California, May 19-22 to compete in the National Copa Coca Cola Tournament. The winner will advance to play in Germany. The team plays in Division I of the Lake Highlands Girls Classic League (LHGCL) located in North Texas and the Region III West Premiere League (NTX-PL).

Ashley is a freshman at Duncanville, Texas, High School where she plays on the varsity team as a midfielder for her Class 5A Duncanville High School. She is also active in community service and at Santa Clara Catholic Church. She is also on the Honor Roll.

Ashley was also a member of the 2004 City of Dallas Soccer Championship team along with being a member of the 2004 City of Dallas Middle School Volleyball Championship team. She was selected for tryouts for the United States Junior Olympic soccer team and also received an invitation to play with the Mexican Junior Olympic team in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Ashley was also the promotional soccer athlete for the Walt Disney Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida. In 2004, as a member of the DeFeeters soccer club, her team was the Puma Cup Champions!

Ashley's Choctaw heritage is from the Caldwell-Winship and Cooper-White families. Her parents are Juan and April Frazier DeLaRosa. She is the granddaughter of Mike and Ruth Frazier. Her great-grandparents are Mack and Lena Samuel Frazier (deceased) and Leo Caldwell (deceased) and Eleanor Cooper Caldwell.

Her family would like to say thank you to the Choctaw Nation for all their support.



Young singers perform in Oklahoma City

Oklahoma City Chahta Villa youth, led by Brenda Samuels, sang three songs at Crossroads Mall in Oklahoma City for Johnson O'Malley Indian Education during the JOM's annual art show at the mall.

Goode is deployed

SFC Darrin R. Goode, the son of Jean Goode, Talihina, is currently serving in Baghdad, Iraq. He and his wife, Rachael, and their two daughters lived in Wiesbaden, Germany, before Darrin was deployed to Iraq. His assignments include a tour with 82nd Airborne Division and deployment to Kosovo. Also included are the 1st Cavalry Division, 2nd Infantry Division, 1st Armored Division, and the 30th Artillery Regiment. He transferred to the V Corps Artillery for his second trip to Iraq.

In May 2005, Darrin went to Russia as the Operations Sergeant during Exercise Torgau, named for the town where Russian and American soldiers met at the end of WWII. He was the first American to raise the Stars and Stripes in Russia at the start of the exercise in Moscow at the Russian Military Academy. He was nominated and won the St. Barbara medal. St. Barbara is the Patron Saint of Artillerymen.

Darrin started his military career between his junior and senior year in high school and then after graduation in 1985 from Talihina High School he continued to serve and defend his country.



In the Army now

Congratulations and happy birthday to Dannie Phillips. Dan swore into the U.S. Army on April 7. As a cannon crew member, Dan will take his basic training and A-School at Fort Sill. He is the son of Nancy and the stepson of Jan Harkins of Poteau. His brothers are Navy Seaman Earl Phillips, Wes and Forrest Harkins. Dan is the grandson of the late Ella Faye Perkins. His great-grandmother was original enrollee Mary F. Gray.

Dan turned 18 on April 18. Dan's brother, "Hooper," turned 19 on the same day. Earl serves in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Enterprise. We are so proud of you!!!

WIC How to change a habit

Changing habits is hard – that's why they are called habits. The longer that you have been doing something, and the more frequently you do it, the harder it may be to change. Experts say that it takes at least 21 days to replace an old habit with a new one.

Fortunately, there are things you can do to make your efforts more successful. Here's a checklist to use any time you want to feel better – and be stronger.

– Pick one habit at a time.

Choose something easy and something you are willing to do, like eating one more piece of fruit every day.

– Start slow and stay steady.

Choose a goal you can meet and a pace that you can keep, like walking around the block once or twice.

– Keep a record of your progress.

Choose a convenient place to write down how you are doing,

like notes on a calendar or in your electronic scheduler.

– Look for help in the right places.

Choose someone supportive to help you stay with your plan, like a good friend who also wants to make a change.

– Reward yourself.

Choose several easy ways to give yourself pats on the back, like saving up for a manicure or spending time with a friend.

"Eat Right Montana"

Player of the Year

Trent Parrish, grandson of the late Bill Parrish and Galena Parrish, recently received several basketball honors – Grady County Basketball Tournament MVP, Grady County Basketball Conference MVP, Duncan



Banner All Area Basketball Player of the Year and Lawton Constitution All Area 2A, 3A, 4A, and Basketball Player of the Year.

Trent averaged 23.2 points per game with 5 rebounds and 4 assists per game. He shot 52 percent from the field, 40 percent from 3-point range, and 79.8 percent from the free throw line.

Trent is a junior at Rush Springs High School. His parents are Rick and Treva Parrish. We are very proud of you, Trent.

Library named for Sen. Shedrick

The Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics Library opened with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 31. The new 21,000-square-foot library was named for Sen. Bernice Shedrick whose grandmother was Choctaw original enrollee Ida Chunn Link; great-grandmother was Nancy Ann McCarty Chunn and great-great-grandmother was Mary Ann Moncrief/Muncrief McCarty.

Sen. Shedrick was orphaned at the age of 13 and has since lived a life of great service to the State of Oklahoma.

The new Senator Bernice Shedrick Library is spacious and provides a quiet atmosphere conducive to study and research. A conference-style classroom is available inside the library.

OSSM was created through legislative action in 1983 and graduated its first class of 44 seniors from across the state in 1992. It is designed as a two-year residential public high school for the academically gifted students in mathematics and science. The school currently has 71 juniors, 63 seniors, and an ultimate enrollment estimated at 300.

NURSERY NEWS

Danielle Aurianna Backover-Matthias

Proud Gramma April Wilkins Bockover is announcing the birth of her seventh grandchild, Danielle Aurianna Backover-Matthias. Danielle was born at 6:27 a.m. on January 20, 2006, in Bakersfield, California. She weighed 10 pounds. Danielle's mother, Roshanna Bockover-Matthias, and all of April's other children, except for the first, were born at home. April delivered all of her grandchildren at home. Her father, Woodrow Wilkins Jr., was born at home in Poteau, as was his father, Woodrow Wilson Wilkins, and his grandmother, Liffie Moore. Danielle's great-great-great-grandfather was Adam Wilkins of Skullyville.



Kayley Ann Bertis

Kayley Ann Bertis was born February 12, 2006, at Carl Albert Hospital, Ada, weighing 8 pounds 7.2 ounces and measuring 20.1 inches long. Kayley's proud parents are Vanessa Wallace and Kenny Bertis of Ada. Grandparents are Sherry Wallace,



Ada, the late Johnny Lee Wallace, Pauls Valley, Angela Bertis, Ada, and Dennis Bertis, Tulsa. Kayley is the great-granddaughter of Claire Bohanan, Ada, the late Henry Bohanan, Paris, Ethel Wallace, Pauls Valley, Laverna Bannister, Ada, Dennis Bearman, Paoli, and Richard Bertis and Naomi Wallace, Atoka. She is the great-great-granddaughter of the late Leslie and Irene Taylor, Idabel, the late Isaac and Lula Bohanan, Paris, and Irene Gibson, Pauls Valley, and the great-great-granddaughter of the late Robert Taylor, the Code Talker.

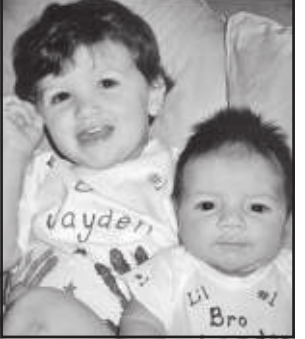
Avery Gabriel Johnson

Daniel and Lori Johnson of Oktaha are announcing the birth of a new son. Avery Gabriel was born at 9:34 a.m. on March 14, 2006, at the W.W. Hastings Indian Hospital, Tahlequah. He weighed 7 pounds 15.9 ounces and was 19 inches long. Avery joins two brothers, Alex Gene, 6, and Adam Garett, 3. Grandparents are Helen Martin, Stuart and Doug and Althea Johnson, Haywood. His great-grandparents are Ruth Martin, Stuart, Jim and Marie Gibson, Haywood, and Grover and Patricia Johnson, Arpelar.



Landen Jaret Wilson

Jayden Joshua Wilson, who will be 2 years old on May 20, would like to announce the birth of his new baby brother, Landen Jaret Wilson. Landen was born at 12:01 p.m. on March 14, 2006, at Wesley Medical Center, Wichita, Kansas. He weighed 8 pounds 11 ounces and was 20 inches long. Proud parents are Josh and Bobbi Wilson. Grandparents are Mike and Sue Wilson. Great-great-grandma is Jewell Wilson of Francis, Oklahoma.



Andrew James Schauer

Andrew James Schauer was born tipping the scales at 10 pounds 1 ounce on April 25, 2006, in Norman to Ruben and Cindy Schauer of Blanchard. He is the grandson of Ruth McLellan of Scotland; the great-grandson of missionaries Curtis and Janet Pugh of Romania; and the great-great-grandson of Lois McAlvain Pugh.



Abigail Poloma Brown

Grace Tallulah Brown is proud to announce the birth of her sister, Abigail Poloma Brown. "Little Abbers" was born at 8:19 a.m. on October 18, 2005, in Springfield, Oregon. She weighed 7 pounds 14.5 ounces and measured 20.75 inches in length. Abigail's proud parents are Brandon Brown and Tara Protiva-Brown. Her grandparents are Eugene and Sandra Brown of Cottage Grove, Oregon, Sue and John Bruce of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Patrick and Cobis Protiva of Rome, Italy. Her great-grandparents include Ramona Brown and the late Eugene Brown of Bothel, Washington, Richard Johnson and the late Bernice Johnson of Mesa, Arizona, Helen Protiva and the late Albert Protiva of Norman and the late Raymond and Helen Watson Robison of Idaho City, Idaho. Abigail is the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee, the late Calvin Watson.



Choctaw Nation WIC WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

Serving the Choctaw Nation at 14 sites

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. & 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	8:30-4:00	2nd & 4th Tues., every Wed. & Thurs.
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	Mon., Wed., Thurs., 3rd & 4th Fri.
Idabel	580-286-2510	8:00-4:30	Monday and Friday
McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30	1st & 2nd week - Tues., Wed., Fri.
		8:00-4:30	3rd & 4th week - every day
		8:00-4:30	1st, 3rd, 4th wk - Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.
		8:00-4:30	2nd wk - Monday, Wednesday, Friday
		8:45-3:45	2nd Thursday
Smithville	580-244-3289	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Monday
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	1st & 2nd Thursday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	

Choctaw Nation WIC Breastfeeding Classes

HUGO

Class One: Tuesday, June 27, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Class Two: Tuesday, August 1, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Choctaw WIC Office Conference Room, Hugo

ATOKA

Class One: Tuesday, July 11, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Class Two: Tuesday, August 8, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Choctaw Community Center, Atoka

McALESTER

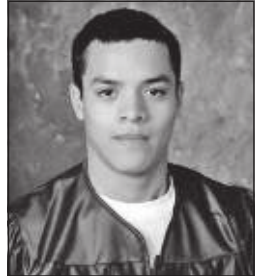
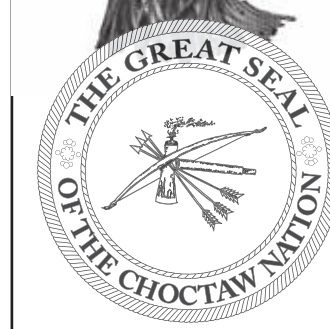
Class One: Tuesday, July 18, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Class Two: Tuesday, August 15, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Choctaw Community Center, McAlester

DURANT

Class One: Tuesday, July 25, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Class Two: Tuesday, August 22, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Choctaw WIC Office, Durant

Congratulations

Jones Academy Class of 2006!



Joseph Billie III

Joseph, 18, is the son of Joseph Billie II of Seminole and Retired SFC Sharon Knight, Germany. He is the grandson of Evans and Teresa Wise of Meeker and Celestine Yearling and the late Douglas Yearling of Foley, Alabama. Joseph plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University to pursue a degree in elementary education.

Preston DiNardo

Preston, 18, is the son of Danielle DiNardo and Randall Mathis, both of Wilburton, and the grandson of Imogene DiNardo of Wilburton, Paul O'Gorman, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Leroy Ward and the late Alice Ward, Antlers. He plans to attend EOOSC and major in computer technology.

Ashley Murphy

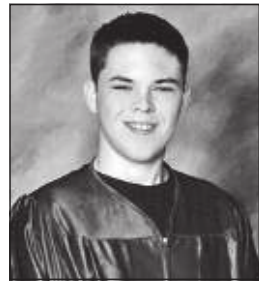
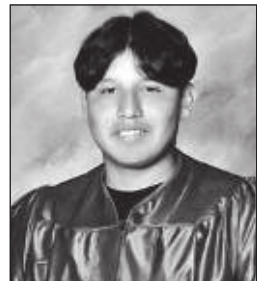
Ashley, 18, is the daughter of Lisa Murphy and the late Ricky Murphy, Dallas. Grandparents are David and Kristi Thompson, Ada, the late Robert and Leona Murphy, Coalgate, and Nibya Libjo, Puerto Rico. Ashley will attend EOOSC to pursue a degree in nursing.

Farrah Tiger

Farrah, 18, is the daughter of Diane Tiger and the late Gary Tiger, McAlester. Her grandparents are the late Mary Keough and the late Thomas Moran, both of Oklahoma City and the late Felix and Geraldine Tiger of California. Farrah plans to attend SOSU in Durant to pursue a degree in criminal justice.

Caylen Ahtone

Caylen, 18, is the son of Marilyn Lovins of Newalla and the grandson of JoAnn Lovins and the late Earl Rudolph "Rudy" Lovins of Norman. Caylen plans to attend either ECU or Haskell Indian University to pursue a degree in criminal justice.



Juan Castulo

Juan, 18, is the son of the late Altonya Leroy. His grandmother is Elvira Sroufe of Ponca City. Juan has not yet determined his educational pursuits after high school.

Michael Eaton

Michael, 18, is the son of Michael L. and Jolene Pool of Divide and Rene Sennett of Talihina. His grandparents are Bobbie Pool and Thomas Sharp, both of Divide, and Reba Merryman and Duane Humphrey, both of Talihina. Michael plans to attend Paris Junior College to pursue a degree in welding.

Michael Pool

Michael Pool, 18, is the son of Michael L. and Jolene Pool of Divide and Rene Sennett of Talihina. His grandparents are Bobbie Pool and Thomas Sharp, both of Divide, and Reba Merryman and Duane Humphrey, both of Talihina. Michael plans to attend Paris Junior College to pursue a degree in welding.

Scott Trujillo

Scott, 18, is the son of Leonard Trujillo and Terry Atencio, both of San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico. Scott plans to attend Northern New Mexico College in the fall.



Arthur Clifford

Arthur is the 18-year-old son of Corrine Ruff and the grandson of Phyllis Clifford, both of Kyle, South Dakota. Arthur will attend EOOSC in the fall to pursue a degree in law enforcement or criminal justice.

Sherri Garza

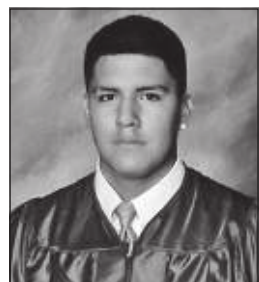
Sherri, 17, is the daughter of Sherri Foley Bohannon, Battiast. She is the granddaughter of Myrtle King, Oklahoma City. Sherri plans to attend EOOSC in the fall and after receiving an associate's degree, will pursue a degree in optometry elsewhere.

Danelle Quiver

Danelle, 19, is the daughter of Daniel and Stanna Quiver of Picuris Pueblo, New Mexico. She is the granddaughter of Sylvia Quiver of San Felipe Pueblo and the late Stanley and Katherine Whyte, Picuris Pueblo. Danelle plans to attend Santa Fe Community College in the fall as a chemistry major. She will then apply to UNC to pursue a degree in zoology.

Tranette Turrietta

Tranette, 18, is the daughter of Jessica and Victor Romero of San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico, and the late Sylvester Turrietta, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Grandparents are Nelson and the late Theodore Wright, San Juan Pueblo, and the late Celso and Sophia Turrietta, Albuquerque. She plans to attend Northern New Mexico Community College to pursue an associate's degree.



Louise Coon

Louise, 18, is the daughter of Arthur Coon Jr. of Ada and Louise Potter of Jay. She plans to attend EOOSC to pursue a degree in early childhood development.

Deborah Hedge

Deborah, 18, is an honor student. She is the daughter of Tyler Lindig and Debbie Hedge, both of Tulsa. Her grandparents are Nellie and the late Wesley Butler, Richard and Maria Hughes, and Patricia Watson, all of Tulsa. Deborah plans to attend Tulsa Community College to pursue a degree in accounting.

Marcos Rasha

Marcos, 19, the son of Carol Rasha, Broken Bow, and the grandson of the late Rose Ward will attend EOOSC to pursue a degree in physical education. He plans to become a high school coach.

Tracy Veal

Tracy, 19, is the daughter of Shella Veal, Crestline, Ohio, and the late David Veal. She is the granddaughter of Barbara Acox, Sherman, Texas, and the late Helen Bruton, Oklahoma City. She plans to attend school in the fall, taking classes in art and computer graphics in order to become an animator.

LaTajah Baker

LaTajah is the 18-year-old daughter of Vincent and Carolyn Baker of Dallas and Rendy Richards of Oklahoma City. Her grandparents are Norman Going and Elaine Gibson of Antlers and William and the late Alice Baker of Broken Bow. LaTajah plans to attend EOOSC to pursue a degree in business management.



Darren Dick

Darren, 18, is the son of Arlene Begay and Herman Dick and the grandson of Leo and Maria Allen, all of Lukachukai, Arizona. After graduation, Darren will attend Dine College at Tsaile, Arizona, to pursue general studies.

Lana Johnson

Lana, 19, is the daughter of Diana Alford, Earlsboro, and the granddaughter of Johnnie Mae Alford, Shawnee. Lana will attend EOOSC to pursue an associate's degree.

ENROLL NOW!

Jones Academy is accepting applications for the 2006-07 calendar school year. We have openings in grades 1-12. Grades 1-6 will be taught on our campus. Students must have a CDIB. For an application call toll-free 888-767-2518; access www.choctawnation.com (go to Programs then Education); write Jones Academy, HCR 74 Box 102-5, Hartshorne, OK 74547; or e-mail bspears@bia.edu.

Sarah Bearshead

Sarah, 18, is the daughter of Rose Neconie of Tulsa and the granddaughter of the late Donna and James Neconie. Sarah plans to attend classes in commercial home services at the vo-tech.



Bill Johnnie, State President of Native American Chamber of Commerce, Megan McDaniel, Jana Chancellor, and Choctaw Nation Human Resources Executive Director Jerry Tomlinson.

American Indian students are honored

The South Central Chapter of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma honored the top two American Indian students that are high school seniors at the annual banquet "Students of Excellence." This year's students are Jana Chancellor of Whitesboro Public School and Megan McDaniel of Durant High School.

Jana is a proud Choctaw and has done many things in her high school career. Jana has been involved in leadership roles with her class where she serves as class president and the FFA chapter where she serves as secretary. She serves as captain of both varsity softball and basketball teams. Jana also works as a peer tutor working with younger students. Jana established the CRASH club at Whitesboro, which is a Christian club for students.

Jana has also been very active in American Indian activities. She has been involved with the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board, serving the 10 1/2 counties of Southeast Oklahoma. She was instrumental in working with Choctaw Healthy Lifestyles and bringing the program "I died who's next" to Whitesboro school this year. Jana also participated in the Healthy Lifestyles conference hosted by Choctaw Nation. Jana has also been involved with the Summer Youth Program.

Jana has had many honors and awards including National Honor Society, Who's Who Among American High School Students, Leflore County All Tournament Softball team, qualifier for the State FFA speech tournament, and the Whitesboro Honor Roll.

Jana plans to go to college, majoring in Speech Pathology.

Megan is proud of her Choctaw/Chickasaw heritage. She has participated in many Title VII and JOM activities in her high school career. Megan has many achievements in her high school activities such as the tennis team and also serving as captain both her junior and senior years. She also lettered for three years in tennis. She has been a member of the Future Educators of American, serving as secretary her junior year and PR officer her senior year. Megan also served as a Key Club member for two years, serving as chaplain her sophomore year and Academic Team member her freshman year.

Megan has had many honors and awards in her high school career such as Superintendent's Honor Roll for four years, Who's Who Among American High School Students for four years, Oklahoma Honor Society for four years, Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society for four years, Linda Abbott Scholarship recipient in her freshman and sophomore years, placed in the SOSU curriculum contest two years, received the Champion of Character Award in tennis her junior year, and received the Most Dedicated Award in tennis her junior year. The DHS Sr. of the Month award was also presented to her for hard work and dedication.

OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance 2005-06 Princess

Rashay Castillo is the reigning 2005-2006 OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance Princess at Oklahoma City. Rashay is Mississippi Choctaw and Dine (Navajo) and of the Mud Clan of New Mexico. She is an 18-year-old senior at U.S. Grant High School in Oklahoma City. Among her many extracurricular activities, she is a member of the Association of American Indian Physicians



(AAIP) where she served as an HCOP Student attending the 2004 and 2005 Summer Academics, as a 2004 Junior Council member and a 2005 Senior Council member. She and three Native American students were instrumental in forming the first Native American Club at Grant High School where she was elected president. She will be graduating from Grant High School this year and looks forward to college.

Rashay has been a Southern Fancy Shawl dancer since age 6. Her life always revolved around church and her tribal traditions. She is a role model for young Native American children and encourages them to learn their native language and tribal traditions. She is active in basketball, softball for school and church. She is a member of the Sandy Hill Baptist Church.

Her parents are Eugene Castillo, Torreon, New Mexico, and April Hickman Castillo, Roff, Oklahoma. Her brother is Skyler and sister, Taneshia Castillo. Her late maternal grandparents are Gaston and Anna Belle Hickman. Grandparents are Leo and Elsie Mariano and great-grandfather is Tom Castillo, all of New Mexico.

Rashay says it is an honor to serve as the 2005-06 OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance Princess, the Choctaw tribe and her family. She traveled extensively meeting other tribes in and out of the state, participating in other tribes' native traditional ceremonies by invitation. One of many milestones she reached was when she participated in the Native American Cultural Center Ground Blessing in Oklahoma City with Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation Princess. She looks forward for the incoming princess' success. She would like to thank the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, the princess committee, the Native American community, her family, friends and especially her cousin, Candice Gibson, whose memory she dedicated her reign.

Beck graduates with marketing degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Christopher Brian Beck for graduating from Oklahoma State University with a degree in marketing on May 6.





Sharp graduates from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Since a very young age my mother (Carolyn Anders, Lawton) and grandmother (Evelyn May, Antlers) have kept me up-to-date and involved with my Choctaw heritage. My beloved late great-grandmother Amanda McKnight, a newborn on the original roll, was an inspiration for me to not only know about, but also to find out about what it means to be Choctaw. I have just completed my Master's of Art in Christian Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. I give thanks to God who has redeemed me, my family, my friends and all who have loved and supported me, and to the Choctaw Nation for providing a scholarship.

Roger Sharp, Yukon, Oklahoma

GSU graduate

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Jason Grant Hampton. He graduated December 2005 from the Georgia Southern University with a degree in Construction Management from the School of Science and Technology. He is completing his senior project this semester.



Parrish following in footsteps

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Jodeann "J.J." Parrish who graduated with a degree from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. She is following in the footsteps of her great-grandfather, Otis Parrish; grandfather, Bill Parrish, and father, Rick Parrish, all college graduates. "I want to extend my thanks and appreciation for your support in obtaining my degree. Your financial generosity through scholarships and clothing allowance were appreciated more than you can know. I am grateful to belong to such a great Nation."



Savanna co-valedictorian

Ashley Jernigen was selected as senior co-valedictorian at Savanna High School. After graduation she will attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University as a member of their honors program, where she will major in pre-med. Ashley has had many honors and accomplishments while in high school. She played softball (slow-pitch and fast pitch): Softball MVP 2004-05; Pittsburg 8 All Conference 2005; track and field: State Track Meet Relay Qualifier 2004; State Long Jump Qualifier 2006; and State Track Meet 400 Meter Dash Qualifier 2006; cheerleading; Captain of softball team one year, track team one year, and cheerleading squad one year; yearbook three years, Yearbook Editor one year, FCCLA; band; State Solo and Ensemble; English Club; Model United Nations; Students Working Against Tobacco; Student Council Class Representative; Vice-President of Class 2003-2004 and 2005-06; National Honor Society; President of National Honor Society Chapter; Oklahoma Honor Society Among American High School Students; Superintendent's Honor Roll; National Honor Roll; Regents Scholar 2004-05. She has also volunteered at the Choctaw Christmas Program and tutored young children at the local rural school where she graduated from the eighth grade. She has helped with the Trick or Treat for Cans program for the food bank and also helped with the Shriner's Haunted Forrest. She is the third runner-up in the Miss McAlester Scholarship Program for 2006. She is the daughter of Greg and Lori Jernigen of Tannehill; granddaughter of Sue Jernigen of Tannehill and Ella Brochu of Bache; and the great-granddaughter of Ellen Johnson of Bache.

"Without the support of the Choctaw Nation and our Councilman, Bob Pate, and Terry, some of these accomplishments would have been too hard to do. So we would like to say Thank You for all you have done to help Ashley be a great success."



Harelson receives elementary education degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Belinda Lynn Harelson. She received her BS of Elementary Education from Northeastern State University in December 2005.

Searle graduates University of Central Oklahoma

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Elizabeth Anne Searle. She graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Art in Education-Social Studies in December 2005.

Sexton is Graduate Foundation Fellow

Steven B. Sexton of Norman received his Master of Arts in Literary and Cultural Studies from the University of Oklahoma on May 13. Steven will begin his PhD studies in Native American Literature in the fall as the English Department's Graduate Foundation Fellow. He is the son of Michael and Barbara Sexton of Oklahoma City and the late Marvena Bayhille Sexton. Steven wishes to dedicate his accomplishments to the memory of his grandparents, the Rev. Daniel and Catherine Sexton. Steven thanks his family and friends for their love, prayers, and support in helping make this possible for him.

Haynes becomes registered nurse

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Kristen Leigh Haynes of Oklahoma City Community College. Kristen graduated with an Associate Applied Science in Nursing Degree on May 12. She would also like to thank the Higher Education Department and Chief Greg Pyle for helping further her education in becoming a registered nurse this year. It would not have been possible without the support from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Thank you again so very much for helping myself and many other people in my life.



Reigning Miss Deaf Oklahoma

Bree Logan, a member of the Choctaw Nation and the current reigning Miss Deaf Oklahoma, will represent the State of Oklahoma in the upcoming Miss Deaf America pageant to be held in Palm Springs, California, on July 3. Bree's talent will be the "Lords Prayer" in Choctaw sign language. She recently performed her talent at the Oklahoma State Capitol to celebrate Deaf Awareness Day. Bree has been very active in the deaf community and is credited for starting various deaf organizations. Bree is a former Hugo resident and now resides in Oklahoma City where she attends the University of Oklahoma, majoring in radiology. Bree is the proud granddaughter of Robert Williams and the late Mary Williams of Hugo and the niece of Jana Boykin and Rocky Davidson, also of Hugo. She contributes her many successes in life to the dedication of her mother, Jodi Williams, and the love and devotion that she receives from her family, which are very important to her. Bree is the first Native American Miss Deaf Oklahoma, and for that she is very proud to display her heritage to all those she meets during her reign.



MHS graduate

Tyler Ray Labor graduated from McCurtain High School in May. He is the son of Hardy and Tammie Labor of McCurtain and the grandson of John and Luvena Labor and Ruby Roberts of McCurtain and also the grandson of Harold and Mary Hall of Bakersfield, California. He will be attending Okmulgee Tech in the fall. We just wanted him to know he is a great son.



Texas A&M graduate

Amanda Nicole Rose of Burleson, Texas, will be graduating in August 2006 from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Development and a minor in business. Amanda is also a member of Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society. She is the daughter of Mike and Rhonda Rose, also of Burleson. Amanda is very proud of her Choctaw heritage and is a very loving person. Your families from Texas, California, and Oklahoma are so very proud of you.



Beck earns business administration degree

Congratulations to Daniel Lee Beck who graduated cum laude on May 6 from the University of Texas at Dallas with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration on finance.

Misty Vernon receives associate's

Misty Vernon graduated May 12 from Tarrant County College, Hurst, Texas, with an Associate's Degree in Criminology. She will begin at the University of Arlington in January, working toward a bachelor's in criminology. This degree will help in future studies as well as with the United Response Search and Rescue team, an organization that helps find missing people and bring them home to their families. Misty is the daughter of Ronnie and Yulonda Kimbrell of Haltom City and the granddaughter of Joe and Charlotte Jones of Talihina.

"It is not easy being a full-time mom and attending college, but through the help of friends and family, I did it. To my husband, Ben Vernon, for all the years of support and working hard to allow me to go to school. To my daughter, Sara, look - mommy did it! I wish to thank all of my family and those in the Choctaw Nation for all of the support. If not for you I would have never been able to do it. Thank you to the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department for the help and information as well as the scholarships. This helped me obtain a dream that I have had for a long time. I would also like to thank Lori Fowler, instructor of Sociology at Tarrant County College. With your help I was able to open my eyes, see outside the box and fulfill my dreams."



Graduate plans to pursue law degree

Dear Chief Pyle,

I am writing this letter to thank you for the scholarship funds I have received for the past four years from the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department. This money has been instrumental in paying my college tuition and fees. I have certainly appreciated the financial support and assistance this generous scholarship has provided to me. I will complete my Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology/Criminal Justice at the University of Texas at Arlington. I am a member of Alpha Chi honor society, graduating summa cum laude in May. I am proud and I am honored to have been selected to be a recipient of this scholarship. Currently I am employed at Pre Screen America on a part-time basis. My plans are to pursue a law degree in September 2007. Again, thank you.



Bret Benedict

Bret is the son of Ronnie and Marilyn Benedict of Waxahachie, Texas, and the grandson of Laureda Green Benedict of Mead.

Grateful for scholarship program

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I just wanted to express my appreciation for the scholarship program you offer through the Choctaw Nation. It is wonderful that you provide something for every student to help receive a college degree. This is my second child to receive this and for this I am very grateful. Please continue the gift of a bright future for many young people.

**Cheryl Hampton
Savannah, Georgia**

Thank you for the higher education

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to express my gratitude to Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey, Larry Wade and the Higher Education Program, and especially the Choctaw people for all the help I have received while attending college. I graduated from SOSU in the spring of 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Now, with the help of the Choctaw Nation while teaching secondary science at Wright City, I am pursuing a master's degree in education leadership through SNSU. Hopefully some day I will have an opportunity to show the tribe how much I appreciate all the help!

Brett Miller

Choctaw completes graduate school

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I just wanted to say thank you so much for the Choctaw Nation's support with my graduate school education. I am graduating this spring with a Master's in Education and will finally be able to realize my goal of becoming a school counselor. I lost my mother three years ago. She was so proud of her Choctaw heritage. She would have been so happy to know that I have enrolled as a member and plan to give back to my Choctaw people by working in a school in Oklahoma once again.

**Barbra Gams VanEekhout
Lopez Island, Washington**

Joiner is Miss Teen Arkansas

Hannah Kay Joiner is the reigning Miss Teen Arkansas-America and was among the top ten finalists and evening gown competition winner at the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Pageant in Orlando, Florida. As Miss Teen Arkansas, Hannah travels around the state of Arkansas speaking to schools, social groups, and etc. on many issues ranging from eating disorder awareness to abstinence conferences. She is a senior at Central Arkansas Christian High School and is a starting player on her basketball team. They also won the AAA State Championship this past March. Hannah is also a two-time state discus champion and heptathlon top 5 finalist. She competed in the heptathlon again this May, the current favorite to win state in the 100-meter hurdles and discus completion. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Math Honors Society, Beta Club, Maumelle Mayor's Youth Council, Girls State Representative, and is active in her church youth group.



Hannah is the great-granddaughter of Leo Langdon and the late Carneal Choate Langdon of Elmore City. She is the granddaughter of Henry and Nita Hogan of Elmore City and Carol and Barbara Joiner of Tulsa. Her parents are Kelly and Tani Joiner of Maumelle, Arkansas. Hannah will be attending college in the fall at a university yet to be decided. Hannah is very proud of her Choctaw heritage and to be a member of the Choctaw tribe.

Top automotive technician

Matthew Glen Caldwell, son of Richard "Rick" and Rhonda Caldwell, is graduating from Choctaw High School and Eastern Oklahoma County Vo-Tech Center in Choctaw, Oklahoma. He is one of the top 20 automotive technicians in the State of Oklahoma and represented EOC in the Ford AAA contest in Okmulgee. Matt and his partner placed third in the contest. Matt will be attending OSU-Okmulgee in the fall. He will be a part of the Chrysler Automotive Program (CAP). Matt has been working for Bob Moore Dodge for a year now, and they are sponsoring him in the CAP program at Okmulgee. Matt has loved to hunt and fish all his life. Until he was old enough to carry his own gun, he would go with his dad and sit in the blind or tree stand with his BB gun. He took his first buck deer at the age of 10 and has harvested several deer since then. Matthew is very proud of his Choctaw heritage and proud to be the great-grandson of Mell and Hilda Youngblood Buss-Walker and the late J.D. Youngblood, and the great nephew of Marvin and Jesse Youngblood. He is also the grandson of Mamie Sue Heller. We are all very proud of Matt and his accomplishments. Good luck in your future, Matt.



Amanda graduates from OSU

Amanda Leuch Dacus graduated in December 2005 summa cum laude from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. She received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Amanda is the daughter of Jerry and Sheila Leuch of Lawton and the granddaughter of Clint and Jeanne Jones of Oklahoma City.



SOSU graduate

Sabrina Sabah Adham Jaber graduated May 13 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant. Congratulations!



Robison earns degree in petroleum engineering

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate David Andrew Robison on earning his degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He graduated in December 2005.

McAlester TSA students attend conference

Technology Student Association students from McAlester Middle School and High School would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the financial support that allowed them to attend the State TSA competition and convention in Tulsa April 4-6. At the spring conference, 72 competitive events ranging from Technical Design, Marine Design Technology, Webpage Design, and Technical Problem Solving, focus on the TSA goal of preparing young Oklahomans to cope with technological changes, to build leadership skills, and explore career choices.

TSA state competition for McAlester students included:

Middle School - Fifth place in Marine Design, Chris Skinner, Josh Meyer and Chris Stokes, and second place in Cyberspace Pursuit (webpage design), Kaysha Wood and Casey Boatman. Kaysha also placed ninth in the state in Technical Design Challenge.

High School - Laurissa Wilson placed fifth in Webpage Design; ninth in Technology Problem Solving; and eighth in Technical Research. Lauren Wilson placed third in Oklahoma T-shirt Design and ninth in Technology Problem Solving.



Front row, Shana Hunt, Chloe Richards, Kaysha Wood and Sarena Short; back row, Josh Meyer, Chris Stokes, Chris Skinner, Casey Boatman and Advisor Raymond Wilson.



Front row, Lauren Wilson, Meagan Cirar and Samantha Stoneburner; back row, Advisor Larry Taylor, Trey Harrison and Laurissa Wilson.



Okla Chahta Gathering Bakersfield

The Choctaw Nation Color Guard, with all veterans and active military personnel, post the colors during the opening ceremony of the Okla Chahta Gathering in Bakersfield.



Presented gifts of appreciation by Chief Pyle are board members Bill Harrison, Mike Bryant, Elijah Cole, Victoria Harrison, Theresa Harrison and Nancy Long.



Board member Mike Bryant presents a cap to Anna Calhoun, 95, of Bakersfield for being the oldest visitor to the gathering in Bakersfield on May 6. They are pictured with Anna's granddaughter, Terry Flores.



Chief Pyle receives gifts of appreciation from the Okla Chahta Clan.



Okla Chahta Princesses, pictured with Chief Pyle, are Head Princess Feather Long, Jr. Princess Kelsie Strohmaier, Little Miss Shaifah Youngdale and Tiny Tot Mania Wells.



Chief Pyle visits the booth of Choctaw artist Gwen Coleman Lester.



Mia, Ana, Cheyenne and Desalynna play on the sidelines.



Gary and Carol Williams of Yuba City, California, and Chief Pyle.



Bondie and Clora Brooksher of Pico Rivera, California, enjoy chatting with Chief Pyle.



Two feathers Trentelman and Norma Lopez are married in a traditional Choctaw wedding on May 6.



Cleno Jefferson, a student of Jones Academy in 1938, and his son, Spider, visit with Chief Pyle.



Together at the Okla Chahta gathering are Ray O'Dell, Jake McKinney, Juanita O'Dell, Chief Pyle, Paulette Moreno and Jerry O'Dell.



Royalty and dancers pose for a group shot on a hillside during the gathering.

Dillard receives Honorary State FFA Degree

Choctaw Nation Executive Director of Gaming Janie Dillard was recently presented with an Honorary State FFA Degree during the 80th Annual State FFA Convention at the Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City.

The Choctaw Nation has donated approximately \$400,000 so far this year in livestock premium sales.

"One of the perks of my involvement with the Choctaw Nation is being a community ambassador," Dillard said. "I am fortunate to be part of helping out these kids."

Dillard, a Caney, Oklahoma, resident, joined 4-H as a young student at Boswell and remained in 4-H throughout high school. She has been involved in the Choctaw Nation for over 22 years and has worked in gaming for 18.



Her husband, Anthony Dillard, is the tribe's District 10 Councilperson. She has two sons, Toby Miller, who is serving in the U.S. Air Force and attending aeronautics school in Daytona Beach, Florida, and Brad Miller and his wife, Brandi, of Caney. Another Atoka resident, Gary McDonald, was also awarded an honorary degree for his years of dedication to FFA students and the Atoka County Fair Board.

EVENTS

Parnell Reunion

The Parnell Reunion will be all day Saturday, June 17, potluck style, at Smithville Community Center. Come and enjoy, have fun games, door prizes and meet relatives. See ya there! For more information call 580-244-3404 or 580-244-3216.

Story Telling Festival

The 3rd Annual Choctaw Story Telling Festival will be held June 21-24 at the McAlester Choctaw Center. Tim Tingle will be the featured story teller. Workshops will be held for adults and elders to share traditional tales of their heritage. Also on June 24 will be cultural demonstrations such as flute playing, drums, blow gun, arts/crafts, dancing, traditional dress and traditional food. For more information, please call the center at 918-423-1016.

Williams Reunion

The family of the late Emma Jean and Dennis Williams Jr. would like to invite any and all family members, descendants and friends to a gathering on June 24 at the home of Nathan and Donna Williams of Idabel. The family will gather for the fourth year of eight at the beautiful Stagen "W" Ranch, one mile east of Road Runner off Hwy. 3 on Williams Way. Come and enjoy games and food for all. For more information, call Nathan Williams or Bertha Bason, 214-748-6167.

Jefferson Reunion

The family of Preston and Annie Jefferson will be having their family reunion on Saturday, July 8, at Kulli Chito Church in Bethel, Oklahoma. Everyone will begin gathering at 10 a.m. for fellowship. Supper will be at 5:30 p.m. with singing afterwards. For more information, call Jeff at 580-241-5081 or 241-5696.

Co-ed Tournament

A Co-ed Tournament will be held July 8 at the Caney Softball Field, Caney, Oklahoma. Cost is \$150. T-shirts will be awarded for first and second place. For more information contact Mandy Armstrong, 580-889-2902 or 580-271-1758. Come out and support our summer little league.



Senate proclamation honors Grant

Sen. Jeff Rabon honors Bill Grant, Hugo, for his efforts in promoting tourism in Southeastern Oklahoma. The Senate proclamation recognizes his lifetime achievements in the cattle industry and bluegrass music.



Wheelock is WE the People project

Curator Barbara Grant and Director Jack Pate hold a grant certificate from the National Endowment for the Humanities for \$12,790 in support of the preservation of Wheelock Academy which has been designated a WE the People project.



Brooks signs with the Riverhawks

Cody Brooks, above at bat, who earned First Team All-Lone Star Conference honors for the 2005 Cameron Aggies as an infielder, has been signed to play for the Rockford Riverhawks for the 2006 season. Brooks has been balancing his academics and assistant coaching responsibilities this spring at Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma. Brooks, a 2001 Blanchard High School graduate completed his college baseball tenure with credentials that include being selected to the All-Conference Junior College Division II team (twice) while attending Murray State, as well as being selected with Second Team LSC honors as a junior at Cameron in 2004 as an outfielder.

The Riverhawks are part of the Frontier League, a 10-team Independent Professional Baseball league that reaches across the United States midwest. Cody also realizes his opportunities would have been limited to attend college and play baseball without the assistance from the Higher Ed Department within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He would like to recognize Chief Gregory E. Pyle and his staff for their continued support of the Native American student athlete.

Cody is the son of Greg and Stefanie Brooks of Blanchard, Oklahoma.



Pittsburg County youth honor tribal leaders

The youth of Pittsburg County honored Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey for their support of FFA, 4-H and other youth activities. Tribal Council Member Bob Pate was also thanked for his many years of dedication to his district. Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey are pictured above with Pittsburg County Jr. Miss and Little Miss, Lakota Cheyenne Byington and Adriana Cheyenne Nicole Byington.



District 11 Councilman Bob Pate and Chief Gregory E. Pyle visit with Ken Pate.



Chief Pyle congratulates Elizabeth Wright, a resident of Pittsburg County, on being crowned Miss Indian Oklahoma.



CHOCTAW Coliseum

Calendar

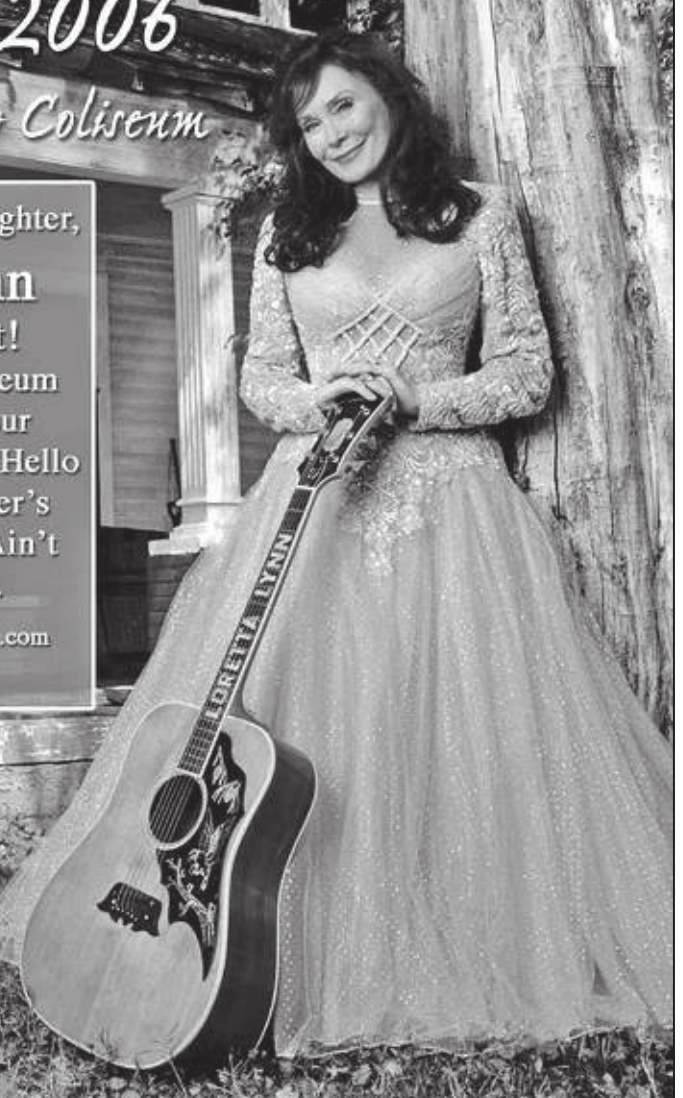
July 6, 7, 8, 9
U.S. TEAM ROPING CHAMPIONSHIP
Coliseum

July 15-16
OKLAHOMA REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION
North Arena

July 28
LORETTA LYNN
Coliseum

Loretta Lynn

July 28, 2006
at the Choctaw Coliseum



The Coal Miner's Daughter,
Loretta Lynn
Live in Concert!
at the Choctaw Coliseum
See her perform your favorite hits such as: "Hello Darlin'", "Coal Miner's Daughter", & "You Ain't Woman Enough".

Visit www.choctawcoliseum.com for Ticket information

OBITUARIES

Mike Jones

Mike Jones, 68, passed away April 15, 2006, at an Oklahoma City hospital. He was born July 23, 1937, in Keota to Willie and Rebecca Jones.

He moved to Oklahoma City at the age of 18 where he worked. He retired from General Motors. Mike was a deacon at Central Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, and his church family will miss him very much.

Survivors include his wife, Laura, of the home; daughter Judy and husband Gil Harjo of Oklahoma City; three sisters, Mildred Davis and Lucille Timmons, both of Stigler, and Viola Harren of Damascus, Arkansas; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. He will be greatly missed.

**Douglas H. Brown**

Douglas H. Brown, 35, of Redlands, California, passed away April 13, 2006, at Redlands Community Hospital. He was born October 13, 1970, in Lynwood, California, and had lived in the Redlands and Yucaipa area for 20 years.

Doug, a musician and radio personality, most recently with Riverside-based Christian radio station KSGN, began his radio career in 1987 with Christian station KLRD-FM in Yucaipa. He started as a production assistant and later was on the air. He also served as music director and in other capacities until 1996. From 1996 to 1997 he was on the air with KOLA-FM in Redlands, then was production director with Evans Enterprise in Riverside from 1997 to 1999 and morning show co-host on Sprit FM (KAEH) from 1998 to 1999. Brown was program and production director with KMET-AM in Banning, California, from 2000-2001, then joined KSGN-FM in Riverside where he was a morning co-host and programming assistant.

During his years in radio, he interviewed many Christian musicians including Amy Grant, Steve Taylor, Steve Camp, Chrystal Lewis, Patty Cabrera, Kim Boyce, Tim Miner, Bob Carlisle, Bryan Duncan and Nicole Nordeman.

A musician himself, he had played drums in local churches including Calvary Christian Center, Yucaipa Assembly of God and Redlands Church of the Nazarene. He also sang as a soloist in those churches and many others, including Oak Valley and Church on the Hill. In 1995, he released a solo album, "Go On," and around that time sang as the opening artist for the Christian contemporary group Sierra at a concert in Chino, California. He had played drums in Southland, a Fontana-based band run by Wayne Landes, 15 to 20 years ago, then rejoined the band in 2004. He also played with other bands, including Sweet Water and The Regulars, both in the 1980s, and a band called NSync (not the well-known one) in 1992.

He sang in Christian Southern gospel-style groups through much of the 1990s and early 2000s including The Crownsmen in the early 1990s; The Martinez Family off and on through those years; The Bravos and The New Creations in the 1990s to early 2000; and Cross Road Quartet from late 2000 to 2003.

In addition to making music, Doug had a talent for making friends. He was a much loved friend and family member.

Survivors include his wife, Michelle Brown of the home; son, Jacob Brown of Pinetop, Arizona; brother and sister-in-law, David and Lauren Brown of Poteau; sister and brother-in-law, Kim and Chris Wooten of Shelbyville, Tennessee; mother, Marilyn Brown of Corona, California; stepmother, Juanita Brown of Shelbyville; and grandfather, Howard "Poppy" Martin of Corona.

Vera B. Shelton

Vera B. Shelton passed away April 27, 2006. She was born May 31, 1919, to Sarah Evaline Oakes and Lewis Bevan. She was a lifelong resident of Choctaw County and a member of First Baptist Church, Hugo.

She began working for the Indian Health Services in 1958 and for 26 years took great pride in helping those who came to the clinic. She was particularly knowledgeable about her Choctaw ancestry, enjoying genealogy, planning reunions and sharing history with others.

While oil painting and gardening were hobbies, her excellent cooking skills endeared her to her family, even drawing her into catering for a while. She was very active until a recent period of declining health.

Her husband, George A. Shelton Sr., preceded her in death.

Survivors include her daughters, Ava and husband Craig Terry of Southlake, Texas, and Pat and husband David Johnson of Bethany; her son, Dr. George A. Shelton and wife Patti of Norman; three grandchildren, Mark Johnson, Lt. Col. Gregg Shelton and Dana Floyd, as well as several extended grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sisters, Lillie Bowman, Myrtle Bevan and Hazel Platten; and brother, Louis Bevan.

**Dian Mashell Thomas**

Dian Mashell Thomas, 41, passed away on April 29, 2006, in Fresno, California. She was born December 21, 1964, in Chowchilla, California.

Dian was in customer service at Bank of America Call Center, Fresno. She enjoyed her cats and will be remembered fondly for her love of animals.

Survivors include one daughter, Blaze Silva; her parents, Manuel and Marnell Thomas of Chowchilla; two brothers, Terry Thomas of Stockton, California, and Brad Thomas of Madera, California. She was the granddaughter of the late James and Susie Rose of Chowchilla.

Annette Baker

Annette Baker, 47, of Weatherford passed away November 17, 2005, at Weatherford Living Center after a brief illness. She was born in Mojave, California, to Alice Betty Airington Teague.

She moved to Oklahoma in 1967 and was a member of the Pentecostal Holiness Church.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents.

Survivors include her husband, Darryl Baker, of the home; four daughters, Geneva Young and husband Gerald of Colony, Terra Toppah and husband Jeff of Carnegie, Sadie Rader of Carnegie and Amanda Christiana of New Orleans, Louisiana; one son, Michael Christiana of New Orleans; eight grandchildren; her parents, George and Alice Teague of Carnegie; one sister and her husband, Shelia and Vernon Harwell of Carnegie; and one brother and his wife, Allen and Sheri Teague of Carnegie.

**Willie Lee Garrett**

Willie Lee Garrett passed away on February 26, 2006, eight days past her 103rd birthday, at Woodland Hills Nursing Home in Allen, Oklahoma. The daughter of John and Nannie Raydon Pusley, Willie was born February 18, 1903, at Gerty, Oklahoma, while it was still known as Indian Territory. She was one of the last few surviving original enrollees of the Choctaw Nation.

Willie spent her entire life in the Gerty area. She attended Gerty Schools. She was married at Gerty to William Ode Garrett on March 30, 1919, when she was barely 16 years old. Together in Gerty they owned and operated Garrett's Grocery while farming peanuts and cotton for many years, until their retirement in 1967, when they moved to Non. After 66 years together, Ode passed away on October 22, 1985. Willie continued to live in the Non area until her health failed about four years ago.

Willie's family was her first love. She wasn't a typical housewife and homemaker. It wasn't cooking, sewing and housework that she truly enjoyed. It was the outdoors and riding horses that she enjoyed more than anything, particularly a horse named "Shorty" that she never forgot and often mentioned.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Nanny Pusley; daughter and son-in-law, Aligene and Lloyd Mauldin; daughter-in-law, Eula Garrett; grandson, Louis Garrett; great-grandson, Robert Lloyd Wood; and her sisters, Juanita Powell and Engels Coker.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Blan and Gerri Garrett of Non; four grandchildren, Linda Orr and husband Tommy of Non, Norma Holt and husband Johnny of Ada, Sandra Wood and husband Larry of McAlester, and Bennie Mauldin and wife Loretta, also of McAlester; seven great-grandchildren, Doug Orr of Non, Lea Lucas of Ada, Brent Wood and Wes Wood, both of McAlester, Bryan Cassell of Tulsa, Dennis Cassell of Stroud, and Cody Mauldin of McAlester; 12 great-great-grandchildren; one niece, Cleo Buchner of McAlester; one granddaughter-in-law, Lou Garrett of Non; and many other relatives and family friends.

Minnie Seloma Vandenburg Ned

Minnie Seloma Vandenburg Ned, 69, of Bennington passed away May 3, 2006, at her home. She was born April 4, 1937, in Bray, Oklahoma, the daughter of Allen Pete Vandenburg and Virgie Lee May Vandenburg and had lived in the Wade community most of her life. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her parents and by her husband, Raymond Ned, January 16, 2002.

Survivors include two sons, Kenneth Hassey and wife Billie of Rowlett, Texas, and George Ned of Wade; five daughters, Lola Boyer and husband David of Frisco, Texas, Lillie Gilbert and husband Edward of Wade, Gwenda Ned of Wade, Tammie Greenhaw and husband James of Albany, and Susie Ned and husband Jorge of Joshua, Texas; four brothers, Rick Vandenburg, Don Vandenburg, James Vandenburg and Gene Vandenburg, all of Bokchito; four sisters, Judy Mitchell of Bokchito, Faye Haun of Bennington, Dorothy Smith of Bokchito and Betty Dumas of Lubbock, Texas; 11 grandchildren, Steven Boyer, Terry Gilbert, Carey Gilbert, Brian Hassey, Michael Hassey, Donna Ruiz, Megan Ned, Jonathon Ned, Dakota Ned, Leslie Greenhaw and Hailee Greenhaw; and numerous great-grandchildren and other family and friends.

**Edna Templeton**

Edna Templeton, 93, of Hartshorne, passed away April 7, 2006, in Hartshorne. She was born June 1, 1912, in Wilburton to Lovely and Lula Bell Holson Smith.

She grew up in Limestone Prairie where she was raised by A.G. and Lue Orr. She married Paul S. Templeton on May 5, 1942, in Stockton, California, where she had been living for a short time. After their marriage, they moved back to Hartshorne and she had lived there since. At times she had assisted the elderly by serving as a provider. She was an avid gardener and quilter and enjoyed reading her Bible. She was a member of the Haileyville Assembly of God Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1990; her parents, and two sisters, Jewell and Pauline.

Survivors include a son, Otis Stringer of Hartshorne; grandson, Steve Stringer of the home; granddaughter, Paula Stringer of McAlester; great-grandchildren, Bobby, Amanda and Spencer Stringer of Wilburton, and daughter-in-law, Ann Stringer of Krebs.

Mary 'Elaine' Harris Kopso

Mary "Elaine" Harris Kopso, 75, of Jacksonville, Florida, passed away February 8, 2006. She was born March 14, 1930, in Antlers, the daughter of Robert L. Harris Sr. and Laura Impson Harris, both original enrollees.

Elaine attended Chilocco Indian School and Southeastern State Teachers College. Elaine was extremely proud of her Native American Choctaw heritage and was sure to pass as much history and heritage to her children. She was a member of the Eastern Star of Orange Park, Florida, and a former Worthy Matron.

Survivors include her children, Mrs. Ellen Denise Parker of Lead, South Dakota, Richard J. Kopso of Jacksonville, and Karl W. Kopso of Norfolk, Virginia; and seven grandchildren.

**Elizabeth Arkansas**

Elizabeth Arkansas, 86, of Oklahoma City passed away April 22, 2006. She was born October 28, 1919, in Ardmore to Davis and Marcelene Jackson Elix. Elizabeth spent her life as a homemaker and was an active member of Glorieta Baptist Church in Oklahoma City until her illness.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Abel Arkansas; three brothers, Henry Farve, Noah Elix, and Edmond Elix; and a special niece, Nina Canoe.

Survivors include two brothers, Clayburn Elix and Alfred L. Elix; two sisters, Evaline Sadongei and Melvina Baker and husband Ted Sr.; special nephew, Ted Baker Jr. and wife Marie; four nieces, Sherri Baer, Kandice Canoe, Waylayah Canoe, and Perrin Deal; one great-nephew, Andrew Baer; two step-daughters, Phanetta Wilman and Lucille Ray; and many other relatives and friends.

Robert 'Motor' Craft

Robert "Motor" Craft passed away March 25, 2006. He was born December 26, 1924, in Healdton to Murray I. Craft and Ruby Louise Moore.

His parents preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Ella Craft; one son, Melvin Craft, and his wife, Lillie; three grandchildren, Todd, Aaron and Farrah; four great-grandchildren; one brother and three sisters.

**Janice Keleher**

Janice Keleher of McAlester passed away April 15, 2006, while visiting her daughter in Redondo Beach, California. She was born January 20, 1950, in Idabel, the daughter of Josephine Davis-Gonzales and Anderson Wilson.

She enjoyed her life, her heritage and her family. She was full of life and especially happy when she was with her daughters and grandchildren. She was very spiritual and as an artist, loved to work with beads. She lived most of her life in the San Francisco Bay area but also enjoyed the spirituality of the mountains of Central New Mexico and the cultural history of her ancestral roots.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Carlos and Gary.

Survivors include her daughter, Lynnette Hampsten of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and daughter Hushtolaki and husband Paul Rickken; granddaughters, Ariana and Briana of Redondo Beach; sister, Beatrice; brothers, DeWayne and niece Crystal, Patrick and wife Mary, Jaime and wife Louina and Alfie and nephew Cody.

**Ronnie Lee Price**

Ronnie Lee Price passed away September 11, 2005, in Oklahoma City. He was born January 11, 1948, in Poteau.

Ronnie was a graduate of Moore High School. He attended Droughns Electronic School whereupon graduating he became an electronics technician. He was proud of his Indian heritage and was asked to lecture on several occasions on the history of the Choctaw Nation. Among the Indian tribes, he went by "Choctaw Ronnie" and in Osage he went by "Ochancee," which means "one eye."

He enjoyed OU football and was an avid Sooner fan. Ronnie was licensed to operate amateur radios and CB radios. His call sign was KD50MS and his radio friends called him "TV Man" because he was good at repairing TVs. Ronnie also enjoyed doing carpentry work and working with his hands. He was a master craftsman on Native American jewelry and art. He was also a member of Moore Masonic Lodge 539 where he held a perpetual lifetime membership and was a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason, which he received in McAlester. His first love was spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Deborah Price, and son, Richard L. Price, of Pittsburg, Oklahoma.

**Ophelia Schattenburg**

Ophelia Irene Schattenburg, formerly Walker, passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 18, 2006. She was born February 23, 1921, in Allen to Grace Esta Lee Green Rail and William Andrew Rail. The family moved to California in the 1930s.

Ophelia married LaRoy Walker in Dinuba where they farmed and raised three children. They were active in the PTA, 4-H Club, and Dinuba Church of Christ.

Every member of her family was beloved by Ophelia. This lady was valiant, with great dignity, poise and grace. She was a member of the Choctaw Nation through her father's bloodline and her life has been lived with the great American Indian spirit, delighting in laughter and merriment.

From a famous quote, "There is nothing so strong as true gentleness, there is nothing so gentle as true strength." In the last decade Ophelia became the Rail family matriarch, from a long line of matriarchs. As before her, the family was blessed that she was strong and gentle. As a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who provided wisdom to all the family, she was also known to be a talented writer and family historian, while a "scientist" also lived at the core of her intellect.

Throughout her life Ophelia was forever a student of the Holy Bible, and she always believed that with God's Hand she could research the right herbal remedies to improve her health. Ophelia, lovingly called "Alphie," "Auntie O," "Alphie Bird," and "Grandma O," spoke often of joy and laughter, looking for the joy in life for everyone. "A bird does not sing because it's happy - it sings because it has a song to sing." Ophelia had a song to sing and with a beautiful voice. It is said that the only true way to teach is by example. If this is true, Ophelia was a shining example to a family who loved and treasured her deeply.

Her beloved eldest daughter, Gwen Walker Anderson, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her only son, Eugene LaRoy "Gene" Walker of Selma; one daughter, Janice Elaine Walker of Maui, Hawaii; three grandchildren, Michael Anderson of Tucson, Arizona, Doyle Anderson Jr. of Reedley and Lori Walker Piestrup of Sanger; two great-grandchildren, Kira and Breegan Anderson; seven nephews and nieces with direct lineage and two nieces from the late LaRoy Walker side of the family, Shirlene "Shene" Kouretas of Gilroy, Roy "R.A." Summers and Dwight Summers, both of San Martin, Karen Mastin of Woodbridge, Virginia, Diana Kyle of Fullerton, Dennis Rutherford of Chandler, Arizona, Larry Rail of Fairfield, Iowa, Pamela Reddell of Dinuba and Phyllis Bergman of Visalia. There are also many third generation descendants.

Della Adelia Doak Harrison

Della Adelia Doak Harrison, 80, passed away November 18, 2005, in Dallas, Texas. She was born February 17, 1925, in Pittsburg, Oklahoma. Della was proud of her Choctaw heritage. She was the daughter of original enrollee Lottie Lee Stiles Doak, the granddaughter of original enrollee Della Folsom Stiles, the great-granddaughter of James Folsom, and the great-great-granddaughter of the Rev. Willis F. Folsom.

Della married Robert Connor "Sam" Harrison on September 12, 1943, in Oklahoma City. She and Sam, along with their three children, moved to Dallas in 1950 where she was a homemaker. Della and Sam lived on Cedar Creek Lake, near Trinidad, Texas, for most of the last 30 years. She enjoyed fishing, gardening, and spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Norman Samuel and Lottie Lee Stiles Doak; her brothers, Ardis Doak and Billy Doak; and her sister, Christian Alhona.

Survivors include her devoted husband of 62 years of marriage, Robert Connor Harrison of Trinidad, Texas; sons, Sam. J. Harrison and wife Karen of Plano, Texas, and Bob D. Harrison and wife Juli of Dallas; daughter, Karen Nabours and husband Robert of St. Charles, Missouri; sisters, Norma Jean Smith and husband Norman and Patricia Braddy; granddaughters, Samantha Harrison, Allison Nabours, Lauren Harrison, and Callan Harrison; grandsons, Mark Nabours and wife Nicole and Matthew Harrison; and three great-grandchildren.



OBITUARIES

Dorothy Baken

Dorothy Faye Baken, 54, of Ada passed away April 18, 2006, in a motor vehicle accident north of Asher. She was born April 9, 1952, in Talihina to Isaac and Esterline Jefferson Tyson.



She attended grade school at Pontotoc and graduated from Ardmore High School. She graduated from Murray State College, Tishomingo, with an associate degree in criminal justice. She attended East Central University. Dorothy was a drug and alcohol technician at Chickasaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles. She was an ordained minister with United Tribes for Christ. She was well-known for her fried pies and her love for the ministry.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Vernon L. Tyson; and two sisters, Ramona James and Pam Beck.

Survivors include four sons, Jonas Camp Jr., Wendell Leader Jr. and Gabriel Baken, all of Ada, and Elisha Seth Baken of the home; three grandsons whom she raised, Zachery Sealy, Jacob Sealy and Sean Sealy, all of the home; an aunt, Christine Keel, Nashville, Tennessee; three brothers, Harold Leslie Tyson, Hominy, Tony R. Tyson, Heavener, and Curtis Randall Tyson, Sherman, Texas; and three sisters, Hazel James, Morrison, Oklahoma, Peggy Immohotichey, Oklahoma City, and Marcella Tyson, Talihina.



Albert James Jr. Ramona James

Albert James Jr., 56, of Ada passed away April 18, 2006, in a motor vehicle accident north of Asher. He was born August 26, 1949, at Troy, Oklahoma, to Prince Albert and Addie Sampson James.

He attended elementary school at Troy and high school at Mill Creek.

He married Ramona Tyson on October 31, 1992, at Seeley Chapel in Connerville. Mr. James was a laborer in the landscaping business. He was a member of Pennington United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by a brother, John Raymond James, and grandmother, Delia Holderby.

Survivors include a son, Albert Alexander, Oklahoma City; three stepdaughters, Denise Bynum, Ada, Donna Flores and husband Arnold, Houston, Texas, and Monica Folsom, Oklahoma City; 14 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a brother, Henry James, Ada.

Ramona Aileen Tyson James, 59, of Ada passed away April 18, 2006, in a motor vehicle accident north of Asher. She was born August 31, 1946, at Talihina to Isaac and Esterline Jefferson Tyson.

She attended grade school at Pontotoc and graduated from Chillico. She attended Murray State College, Tishomingo. She was of the Baptist faith. She was well-known for her fried pies.

She married Albert James on October 31, 1992, at Seeley Chapel in Connerville.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Vernon L. Tyson, and two sisters, Dorothy Baken and Pam Beck.

Survivors include three daughters, Denise Bynum, Ada, Donna Flores and husband, Arnold, Houston, Texas, and Monica Folsom, Oklahoma City; grandchildren, Johnna Woodruff, Jeremiah Woodruff, stationed in Colorado, Jana Woodruff, LaWana Sides, Tasha Sides, Morgan Sides, Christopher Stout, Ashley Flores, A.J. Flores, Alessa Flores, Johnathan Taylor and Amber Taylor; two great-grandchildren, Micah and River David; an aunt, Christine Keel, Nashville, Tennessee; three brothers, Harold Leslie Tyson, Hominy, Tony R. Tyson, Heavener, and Curtis Randall Tyson, Sherman, Texas; and three sisters, Hazel James, Morrison, Oklahoma, Peggy Immohotichey, Oklahoma City, and Marcella Tyson, Talihina.

Lela T. Martin Johnston

Lela T. Martin Johnston, 94, of Phoenix passed away May 10, 2006, at home. She was born September 2, 1911, near Bennington to Maggie Durant and Sam. B. Martin. She was the granddaughter of Frank and Eliza Durant. Her mother passed away when she was 11 years old. Lela and her sister were adopted by Minnie and Gill Simpson. She attended St. Agnes Convent School up to the 11th grade.

She married Guy Johnston in 1936. They moved to Casa Grande, Arizona, in 1945 where she lived until 1968. She then moved to Phoenix. Mrs. Johnston was on the Founders Board of the Native American Community Health Center in Phoenix. She attended St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Phoenix.

She was probably one of the first women drivers. She was the driver when her mother bought a Hupmobile. She was a wonderful mother, devoted to her children and their education. She was loved by her family and friends. She was always proud of being a full-blood Choctaw.

She was preceded in death by her husband; sons, Vernon and Richard; daughter, Hope Duywenie; sister, Velma Porter; and Velma's son, James Porter.

Survivors include two daughters, Patricia Thundercloud and Linda Smith of Phoenix; one son, Roy Johnston of Mesa, Arizona; six grandchildren, Tyrone, Richard, Patrick, Robert, Andrew and Deena; and four great-grandchildren.

George W. Folsom

George W. Folsom, 90, of Carlsbad, New Mexico, passed away April 22, 2006, at Lakeview Christian Home. He was born July 7, 1915, to Jerry and Mattie Elizabeth Harris Folsom in LeFlore County, Oklahoma.

He was raised and attended school in Oklahoma and worked in the farming industry. George served in the U.S. Army from 1935 to 1938, and then worked as a civilian at the weapons depot in Gallup, New Mexico, throughout World War II.

George married Juanita Statham on October 31, 1938, in Spiro, Oklahoma. After World War II, he returned to Oklahoma to work in the coal mines. He moved to Carlsbad in 1951 and worked for PCA as an electrician until his retirement. George was a 32nd-degree Mason with 50-year pins in both the Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Star. He was also a long-time member of the IBEW local union.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and two sisters.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Juanita Folsom; two daughters, Georgia Vining and husband Jack of Carlsbad and Sarah Kirby of Carlsbad; three grandchildren, Jack Vining Jr. and wife Elizabeth of Winnona, Texas, Bobby Vining and wife Tammy of Longview, Texas, and Aaron Kirby and wife Robin of Carlsbad; three sisters, Edna Bull and husband Benjamin of Houston, Texas, Alyce Caldwell and husband Ray of Topeka, Kansas, and Elizabeth Howard of Centinal, Oklahoma; and nine great-grandchildren.

Cathleen LeFlore Nelson

Cathleen LeFlore Nelson, 47, of Poteau passed away May 17 at Poteau. She was born July 6, 1958, in Talihina, the daughter of Alexander LeFlore Jr. and Alice Lee Jacob LeFlore, and lived in the Hugo/Soper area until 1994 when she moved to Poteau.

She was a homemaker and she enjoyed going to garage sales. She liked animals, especially her dogs and she loved helping people.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Gene Nelson; one sister, Bertha Jacob; and one brother, Earl Ray Wallace.

Survivors include her stepmother, Vera Johnson of Poteau; three sisters, Josephine Gallant and husband Delbert of Hugo, Pauline Tom and husband Leonard of Soper, and Liz Smithart of Tushka; four brothers, Willie Jim Robinson of Hugo, Donald LeFlore and wife Janice of Antlers, Tommy LeFlore and wife Karen of Poteau and Johnny LeFlore of Tulsa; numerous nephews and nieces and other family and friends.

David Wayne Ashalintubbi

David Wayne Ashalintubbi, 56, of Idabel passed away April 29, 2006. He was a lifetime resident of McCurtain County who was a friend to anyone and an enemy of no one.

David was an eight-year veteran of the U.S. Army and served proudly in Vietnam.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Aline James; stepmother, Sue Ashalintubbi; stepfather, Henry James; and two sisters, Verloyn and Candice Ashalintubbi.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Brenda Worley Ashalintubbi of the home; two sons, DeLano Ashalintubbi of Bartlesville and Matt Ashalintubbi of Hampton, Virginia; two daughters, D'Anna Ashalintubbi of Forney, Texas, and Diedra Ashalintubbi of Wilburton; three brothers, Dennis Ashalintubbi of Eagletown, Ferris Ashalintubbi of Honobia, and Marty James of Talihina; four sisters, Denise Johnson of Heavener, Hannah Williams of Del City, Pauline Ashalintubbi and Minni Ashalintubbi, both of Clarksville, Arkansas; his father, Marland Ashalintubbi of Eagletown; one aunt, Mildred Ashalintubbi of Eagletown; one uncle, Raymond Johnson of Honobia; 12 grandchildren, Kimberly, Jordan, Emily, Keagan, Brendan, Elyce, Shailynd, Shelbie, Shanan, Sheridan, Kalyn, and Tessa; many other relatives and a host of friends.

Gary Vaughn Smith

Gary Vaughn Smith, 36, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, passed away November 5, 2005, at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Fayetteville. He was born January 27, 1969, in Oklahoma City.

Gary was a landscaper.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gary Don Smith and Rosetta Houck, and his grandparents, Raymond and Margaret Smith and Chester Jordan.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Elliott-Smith; three children from his first marriage, Gary Vaughn, Carrie Anne and Raleigh Smith; brother, Scott Lee Morrow; two half-sisters, Misty Dawn Smith and Carrie Lynn Houck; grandmother, Norma Jean; and stepmother, June Smith.

To Chief Pyle and staff of the Choctaw Emergency Fund,

My sister, Misty Smith, and myself, Scott Morrow, would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest and most heartfelt thanks to the entire Choctaw Nation for their help in putting our brother, Gary Vaughn Smith, to rest. There is no way we could have done it without you. Gary Vaughn was very proud of his Choctaw heritage and my sister and I are proud of ours as well.

Vivian A. Dill

Vivian A. Dill passed away April 19, 2006, in Roland, Oklahoma. She was 90 years, 9 months and 22 days old. Born June 28, 1915, in Yanush, Oklahoma, she was the daughter of the late Jackman and Martha Gibson Anderson and the wife of the late Otis Dill. She was a retired nurse and of the Baptist faith. She was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church, Wilburton, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Dill was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a son and a daughter.

Survivors include daughters, Gloria Fitzgerald of Muldrow; Martha and husband Charles Dye of Roland and Nadine and husband Clint Sharp of McAlester; daughter-in-law, Berthe Dill of Wilburton; nephew, Eugene Anderson of Yanush; 19 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Lola Bell Jackson

Lola Bell Jackson passed away February 27, 2006. She was born April 26, 1925 (or maybe 1926), in Centrahoma. There was always some disagreement concerning her age. The Jacksons had some hard times during the depression. There were four children – Utah, Sybil, Jean and Lola. Their mom, Mami, called them, Son, Sybil, Sane and Sissie. Lola's dad, Alfred, was killed when she was two.



Some of the children even spent a short time in an orphanage when putting food on the table was especially difficult.

Lola graduated from Centrahoma High School. She made straight A's, was valedictorian, and loved to play basketball. During World War II, she worked at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. Shortly after the war she met Keith Jorgensen. Keith was just getting out of the Navy. They lived in Pittsburg while he went to art school. They later moved to Pampa, Texas, where Keith's parents lived. While living in Pampa, Lola had Robert Stanley in 1950 and Bradley Keith in 1953.

Soon after Brad's birth, they moved to Oklahoma City. Lola worked as an operator at AT&T. In 1955, Stan started school. When Brad started school in 1958, Lola took a position as secretary and bookkeeper at their elementary school. Lola was famous with all the neighborhood kids for being able to beat them at basketball. Lola was active in the Methodist Church. She taught adult and youth classes. She even once let Stan take the car to church youth and Sunday services before he was old enough to drive.

In 1965, Keith left and after that Lola raised the boys. In 1968, Stan left to go to Oklahoma University, Lola married Ben Theimer and with Brad, they moved to Moore. In 1971, Brad left for college and Lola and Ben moved to Conway, Arkansas. Ben was an entrepreneur who never made it.

Stan graduated from Oklahoma University's Engineering School in 1973. Each month, Lola had sent Stan money for his tuition. In 2000, Stan learned that at one point, she had sold her car in part to be able to continue to help with college.

In 1974, Lola graduated as a nurse from the College of Arkansas (now UCA). In 1979, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Henderson State University. Lola taught nursing and for a while worked for the Arkansas State Department of Health where she inspected nursing homes.

In 1983, Lola moved to Van Buren, Arkansas. She attended Heritage Methodist Church. In Van Buren, she met two of her best friends, Betty Farris and John Butler. Lola and Betty traveled throughout the world, including Paris, Rome, the Middle East, Washington, D.C., and just about all of North America. She married John Butler and although later going slightly different ways, they remained friends.

In 2003, Lola moved to Mena, Arkansas. Her sister, Jean, lived there and they spent two wonderful close years. Lola used to say they went to church, bowling, and Wal-Mart. In 2005, Lola moved to Little Rock, Arkansas, due to her health.

Survivors include sons Stan Jorgensen of Little Rock and Brad Jorgensen of Beaumont, Texas; and her grandson, Colin Jorgensen of Little Rock. Lola attended Colin's graduation from Michigan Law School in May 2004. She had a wonderful time.

Lucille Butler

Lucille Folsom Butler, 97, passed away at her home in Idabel on April 9, 2006, after a brief illness. She was born August 22, 1908, in Caddo, the daughter of Carl and Nannie Folsom, both of whom were members of prominent Choctaw families. Her great-great-grandfather was Peter P. Pitchlyn, Principal Chief of the Choctaw tribe. She was very proud of her Choctaw heritage.



Lucille graduated from Caddo High School in 1927, then enrolled at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. It was there that she met Malcolm Butler and the two were married on December 28, 1928, in Lawton. After graduating from Southeastern with their teaching degrees, she and her husband returned to McCurtain County and began their teaching careers. Subsequently Mr. Butler began a long business and ranching career in Idabel and Mrs. Butler became a committed and caring homemaker.

After moving to Idabel, she and her husband joined the First Presbyterian Church. She was an active and loyal member until her death. She loved her church and served whenever and wherever needed.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Malcolm Butler, and her brothers, Gordon Folsom and Carl Folsom.

Survivors include three sons, Malcolm Butler Jr., Roger Butler and James Butler, as well as three daughters-in-law, Patsy Butler, Shirley Butler and Debbie Butler, all of Idabel. She is also survived by two nephews, Gordon Folsom Jr. of Tulsa and R.D. Folsom of Arlington, Virginia; eight grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Vernie James Airington

Vernie James Airington passed away March 26, 2006, in Oklahoma City. He was born February 2, 1928, in Alex to J.D. and Ada Airington.



At the age of 17, Vernie joined the Army at the end of World War II. In 1947 he married Hazel Marie Bednar and in October they would have celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary. After the military, he purchased a dump truck which started his trucking career that lasted a span of 60 years. He worked many years at the Hahn Truck Line and finished his career at FreightLiner. Vernie was very proud of his Choctaw heritage and his grandkids are very proud that they are part of the Choctaw Nation.

He influenced many lives in El Reno through coaching baseball. His overall record was 160 wins and seven losses. Throughout his life his family was his priority. He made it a point to attend all of his children and grandchildren's musical and sporting events. He enjoyed going to auctions with his family and was an avid dealer in other people's lost treasures (i.e., junk). All who knew Papa loved him and he will be deeply missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Bud Airington; sister, Addie Graves; and son, Jimmy Randel Airington.

Survivors include his wife; son, David Airington and wife Debbie of El Reno; daughter, Reda Mewhorter and husband Ray of Del City; son, Angel Airington and wife Linda of Edmond; brother, Stanley Airington and wife Delores of Norman; sister, Lucille Persley of Chickasha; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Council continued from Page 1

Wolfe and Mitch Mullin as tribal judges;

- a 20-year long-range transportation plan for the tribe;
- budgets submitted by Tribal Operations and the tribe's WIA and Supplemental Youth programs;
- grant applications for Elder Care Initiative Long Term Care Program, Youth Build Grant Program, COPS Tribal Resources Grant Program, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Healthy Lifestyles and Indian Community Development Block Grant Program;
- authorizing funds to assure completion of the new wellness center in Hugo, a CDBG project;
- adopting the Maintenance and Operation Plan for the Hugo Wellness Center;
- assuring that the Finance and Procurement policies and procedures comply with CFR85 and 1003;
- two farming and grazing leases, a right-of-way easement, and a seismic permit.



Jr. Miss Jenny Townsend and Sr. Miss Erica McMillan present the "Lord's Prayer" in sign language.



The bell tolled a greeting from the old rock Wheelock Mission Church as walkers strolled by.



Richard Neal and Willis Wesley are among those who walked the entire way.

The Walk

Dusty shoes of all sizes entered the Wheelock Academy grounds at the culmination of a commemorative walk held May 20th, and reminders were spoken that few of our ancestors on that original trek had any shoes to wear. The pressing heat May 20 was the opposite of what Choctaw forefathers experienced on that long, sad march almost two hundred years ago.

The first tribe to traverse the Trail of Tears, the Choctaw march was in the winter of 1831 and the families encountered extreme weather and hardship. Cold, hunger and sickness were with the Choctaws every step of the way, and stories are told of hours spent wading in deep swamp water, of days without eating and nights of enduring sleet and cold wind without coats or moccasins.

In direct contrast, the commemorative walk was in relative comfort. "We are fortunate to have shoes on our feet, water to drink and lunch waiting at the conclusion," said Chief Pyle. "Our ancestors survived and prevailed without things that we consider necessities today."

Wheelock was one of the first permanent stops to set up a mission, which eventually became home to hundreds of girls.

Chief Pyle announced that one of the main buildings on campus, Pushmataha Hall, was to benefit from funds allocated just one week previous by the Tribal Council. Almost \$300,000 will be spent to stabilize the foundation of the 125-year-old former girls dormitory. On the list for the 11 most endangered sites named by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Pushmataha Hall continues to need a great deal of rehabilitation.

Another of the old buildings on the school grounds, LeFlore Hall, has been renovated and a museum is housed inside, showcasing pictures and mementos from the girls who once attended classes at Wheelock.

Nature and time have worn Wheelock Mission Academy, yet the site is still a showplace that draws visitors year 'round. Summer hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The public is welcome to come and tour the grounds.



This little one catches a ride on Doug Davis' shoulders.



John Taylor Sr. is pushing John Jr. all the way from Millerton to the Wheelock campus. His daughter, DeAnne Taylor, walked with him.



Youth give a demonstration of Choctaw social dancing.



A group of senior citizens sing Choctaw hymns for the audience.



Calen, Kaleb, Kiowan and Joshua Jones and Bon Hernandez pose with Chief Pyle at the small lake behind Pushmataha Hall at Wheelock.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Joyce Shaver spend some time reminiscing. Joyce attended Wheelock at the same time as Chief's mother in 1945.



Chief Pyle with Jim and Joyce Lankford of Hodgin and Lena Munoz of Heavener.



Paul and Juanita Ratliff of Washington, Oklahoma, attended the festivities with their great-grandchildren, Stormy Byington, Cheyenne Byington and Taylor Locke.



Blaine Randall, Waddel Hearn and Justin Graham smile for the camera.



Bessie Nakishi, Tiffany Coon and Rita Holt are enjoying the day.