

## Tribe breaks ground for elementary school



Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle was joined by Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, Chickasaw Governor Bill Anoatubby, Choctaw Tribal Council and tribal officials at ceremonies to officially "break ground" for the elementary building being constructed at Jones Academy near Hartshorne.

### New facility to house first through sixth grades at Jones Academy

Groundbreaking ceremonies have been held for the new academic building at Jones Academy residential school. Grades one through six are currently being taught on campus in modular buildings as temporary classrooms, while grades seven through 12 attend public school at nearby Hartshorne.

Jones Academy has provided a home, education, and caring environment for American Indian children since 1891. In 1952, the federal government removed academic and vocational activities from BIA-funded schools and Jones Academy students began attending classes in Hartshorne.

In 2003, classes were re-established on-site for Jones Academy, beginning with first and second grade. The new elementary school is scheduled to open for classes in the autumn of 2007. "We are committed to this project and stand steadfast in our resolve to provide the best educational environment for our youth," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

See JONES ACADEMY on Page 10



Choctaw Nation Executive Director Joy Culbreath presents an award to the Idabel Public School's JOM program. Representatives include Chairperson Vivian Williams, Vice Chair Phil Bullock (not pictured), Secretary Rhonda Sims, Members at Large Lydia McClure and Linda Brown, and Native American Coordinators Monica Billy and John Harjo.

## JOM ... learning blocks for our children

This year's Oklahoma Johnson O'Malley Conference kicked off with the theme, "Native Children Learning Blocks ... JOM." Top programs were honored by the tribes during a banquet in their honor on March 29 at the Marriott Southern Hills in Tulsa.

Choctaw storyteller Tim Tingle greeted the large group of educators, JOM and tribal representatives. He spoke of fire and its power.

"It can either burn you up, burn you out or fire you up," Tingle said. We want our students fired up or impassioned about what they do.

"No matter what happens with the fires we must not look back at what has happened, but look ahead," he said. "If you want to inspire them to read, let them see you reading."

The Choctaw Nation recognized two JOM programs from within the tribe's 10 1/2 counties - Idabel Public School and Poteau Public School. These programs provide exemplary "learning blocks" for our Native American students.

The JOM student enrollment represents 15 percent of the total students at Idabel. To serve the JOM students at their school, they have implemented an academic enrichment pro-



Culbreath presents JOM representatives Kim Robertson and Lila Hornbuckle with the award for Poteau.

gram which consists of providing academic supplies, cultural enrichment and tutoring. The tutor serves as a home-school liaison and a resource person for the other Indian Education teachers.

The tutoring services in academic and social areas improve overall academic achievement and improvements in self-image and self-conduct. Attention to the student's individual needs helps them to achieve their maximum potential and creates opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's school work and activities.

Eighteen percent of the student body at Poteau is enrolled in JOM. The academic enrichment program also consists of providing education supplies and a cultural enrichment program as well as providing stu-

dent incentives, ACT testing and extracurricular fees, and training for parent committee and staff.

The program coordinator/home school liaison strives to maintain an average attendance rate of 96 percent for all Johnson O'Malley students. Efforts are made to attain a zero dropout rate and improve grades. JOM students and families are informed of Indian education, district and community services available to them and are encouraged to utilize them.

All of these programs build self-esteem, self-confidence, develop social skills, and help students make wise decisions regarding further education and employment.

The Choctaw Nation JOM program serves in excess of 8,900 students in 69 school districts.

## Chief Pyle, Congressman Boren present gift to Bokoshe school

### Donation to aid in total cost of much-needed heating system

Bokoshe Elementary School has had a lot of experience of making do with what is at hand - just recently \$400 of space heaters from Wal Mart kept students warm when the 35-year-old furnace system was shut down. Complaints of eyes burning from the students prompted an immediate check of the system, which showed undesirable levels of carbon monoxide. Six furnaces in all were put out of commission - and repairs were not possible because they were so old.

"An estimated \$45,000 is what we were told would have to be spent to bring everything up to date," said school Superintendent Greg Fouse. "We simply could not come up with that amount."

What to do? Fouse knew he could count on U.S. Congressman Dan Boren to hear him out, so a phone call was placed, mon-



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Congressman Dan Boren present a \$5,000 check to Bokoshe Superintendent Greg Fouse to assist with a new furnace system in the school.

ey was sought and assistance was found. Congressman Boren requested the Choctaw Nation to become involved. This encouragement has prompted a \$5,000 gift from the tribe, presented by Chief Greg Pyle and Congressman Boren on to the Bokoshe School.

Fouse said the space heaters were fine for a temporary fix in cool weather. "If the kids get cold, we'll move them to the library, another classroom, or the cafeteria," he said. "Our classes

may be a little inconvenienced, but we are making sure the children aren't uncomfortable."

Fouse expressed his excitement about the \$5,000 donation for the small-town school, and also expressed concern about raising the remainder of the needed funds. They are definitely willing to accept donations. Warm spring weather allows for the space heaters to be adequate for now, but furnaces will need to be replaced for the fall semester.

## Council approves partnering with SOSU on Excellence in Education development grant

During regular session April 8, Choctaw Tribal Councilmembers unanimously agreed to approve a partnership with Southeastern Oklahoma State University for application to the Department of Education for the Native American Excellence in Education Professional Development Grant.

The grant will help to significantly increase the number of Native American public school teachers by supporting efforts to recruit Native American students enrolling in elementary and secondary education programs.

In other new business, letters of consideration for appointment to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Housing Board were approved for Vickie McClure and George Robison.

Also approved were two oil and gas leases; an amendment to Council Bill CB-33-05 to provide for enforcement of RUS Grant; an amendment to CB-49-06 to include more equipment for sale; and a modification of the tribal operations budget.

The Choctaw Tribal Council meets on the second Saturday of every month in the Council Chambers at Tushka Homma.

## Choctaw tops list of Native American 8(a) companies

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has been ranked #1 of Native American companies in this year's "Washington Technology Top 25 8(a) list" for the IT portion of the Choctaw company, based in Durant. The list ranks the largest 8(a) firms doing business with the federal government.

### Choctaw Nation announces new family literacy program in Hugo

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is proud to announce a new family literacy educational program in Hugo. This program, "Even Start," may be for you if you are a family that has any of the following needs:

- Early childhood education for children ages 0-7
- At least one parent in need of a G.E.D. or diploma
- Needing basic educational skills
- Needing job training skills
- Are unable to speak, read, or write the English language

The children 0 to 5 years of age will attend Early Childhood classes while the parents attend Family Literacy classes. After school, tutoring will be provided for children 5 to 7 years old if needed.

The Even Start Center is located at 1206 West Clayton in Hugo; phone 580-326-4910.

Come and join us to help the family.

# NOTES TO THE NATION

## OU student makes Dean's list

Dear Editor,

Thank you so very much for granting me the opportunity to attend the University of Oklahoma through your scholarship. Your generosity is helping me to pursue my goal of going through nursing school. After completing my first semester, I was successful in my grades, and made it on the Dean's list. I am extremely honored and proud to be a representative of the Choctaw tribe here at the University of Oklahoma. I could not have done it without you!

Ashley R. Hesabi

## VFDs say "Thank you"

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

Summerfield Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. We appreciate all the help and support you have given and can give in the future with emergencies.

Scotty Loyd

We, here at the USWV Veterans Colony Volunteer Fire Department, Wilburton, Oklahoma, wish to thank you for the generosity bestowed to us during the outbreak of all the fires during the past few months.

Loyd Herndon, Administrative Officer

Albany Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank you for your donation. We appreciate your donation. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and support. Without people like you, we would not be able to serve the community as we do.

Don Staton, Fire Chief

## Support is appreciated

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you for the care package that I received. The support and charity from good people/organizations like the Choctaw Nation really do a lot to keep us going over here in Iraq. The goods I received in the care package really came in handy and everything I didn't need I passed on to some other guys. Once again, thank you. Your support is greatly appreciated.

2LT Amos Fox

## Cultural event enjoyed

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I wish to express my deepest appreciation for your support of the Second Annual Ardmore High School Native American Club Fundraising Powwow. The community of Ardmore, Oklahoma, deeply enjoyed this great cultural event. The powwow gave the Native American community with many Choctaws an opportunity to enjoy an everlasting part of their cultural heritage. We were honored with the presence of Miss Choctaw Nation Erica McMillan and we were again honored with the presence of the Choctaw Nation Color Guard for the second straight year. The special moment of this year's powwow was the crowning of the first Native American Princesses and Warriors of the Ardmore City School System. Again, you have our deepest appreciation for your support!

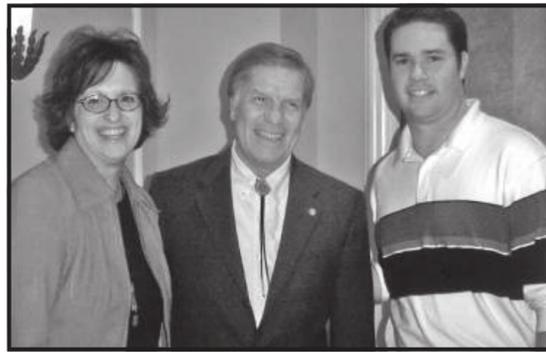
Thomas L. Cronemeyer

Southeastern Oklahoma Inter-Tribal Powwow Alliance

## A heartfelt thank you

The family of Katherine Walker Crank would like to take this time to express our appreciation and gratitude to all those who shared in our mother's celebration of life. Our heartfelt thanks to the Talihina Veterans Center and all the staff. You treated her with great care and dignity. We would like to thank the Talihina Funeral Home for your professional attitude and comfort. The Talihina Flower Box for the beautiful sprays, arrangements and plants. To the Greenhill Baptist Church, we would like to express our gratitude for the services and fellowship provided by all. To the Rev. Kenny Bryant and the Rev. Artis Potts, we would like you to know that your words, prayers and gestures were truly inspirational and heartfelt. We were deeply touched by the music provided by Daniel Adams, Laura Mackey and Joe Coley. Your songs were not only beautiful but inspirational. We would like to thank the Navy and the Choctaw Color Guard for their presence. We were truly honored. To the pallbearers and honorary pallbearers, we would like to express our gratitude and let you know how special you are. To all those who sent cards, flowers and food, we would like you to know that we appreciate your heartfelt generosity and prayers. We thank everyone for your thoughts, words, deeds and prayers during our time of need. To all our friends and neighbors, may God bless you all.

The children, grandchildren and family members of Katherine Walker Crank



Debbie Stokes, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Courtney Stokes.

## Florida residents enjoy tribe's visit

To Chief Pyle and staff,

Debbie Stokes and son Courtney would like to thank Chief Pyle and all the staff and tribal members for a wonderful time in Kissimmee, Florida, in February. They had a nice visit with Chief and the staff of the Choctaw Nation. Thank you.

Debbie and Courtney Stokes  
Plant City, Florida

## Caring thoughts

Dear Chief Pyle,

Just knowing that there are caring people around me really helps. Thank you very much for the nice card and thoughts during the loss of my daughter, Tammy Sinn. Tammy was very proud of her Choctaw heritage. Thank you.

Betty Wilson Stacy  
Waitsburg, Washington

## A precious memory

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The kindness and sympathy of neighbors and friends in our recent loss of our beloved Lottie Thomas "Nan" West will always remain with us a precious memory.

In this life, if you love, and then you lose that loved one, there will be suffering and pain. We warily accept this present plight and try to appreciate with the passage of time there will be healing. Now that Nan has been taken from us, may she have been called on for something as noble as she gave here on earth.

Family of Nan

## Thank you Choctaw Nation

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I just wanted the Choctaw Nation to know how much I appreciate their help in my time of need when I lost my job and they helped with my rent. I so appreciate this one-time contribution, I am still looking for work but I am currently working temporary jobs through Kerry's referrals in Phoenix. Thank you again for being there for me.

Laura Rodgers

## Core program is outstanding

Dear Chief Pyle,

The Core Capacity Program that was presented by Jon Hotubbee and Jeannie Jackson for our sixth grade students was "Outstanding." The presenters were very professional and worked well with the students. Thank you for making such a wonderful program available to our students to learn about the dangers of drugs on their bodies. The students learned many new things that will help them deal with the dangers of drugs. Programs like this are needed greatly. Thank you for caring about the future of our youth. I am very impressed with the progress you are making for the youth of the communities.

Mrs. Shirley Nelson  
Sixth Grade Teacher at Talihina

## McAlester staff help homeless Choctaw

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank you for all the support in getting me on my feet again. I have been homeless for a couple of years. I came to McAlester to find some help with a place to live. The McAlester field office found me a place in a long-term treatment facility. I want to thank the tribal police for shuttling me to the places I needed to go and the employees from the community center for working so hard to help me. I would like to also thank Charlene Grunstad for her assistance.

David Rudder

## Letter of appreciation

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The Jacob Family of Atoka wishes to express their sincere appreciation to Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, and Councilman Anthony Dillard for allowing them the use of the Community Center for a family gathering during their time of need. Special thanks goes to all involved in preparing, delivering, and serving of all the wonderful food and all your support.

The Jacob Family

## Searching for information

Dear Editor,

I am in search of information or the whereabouts of Houston Fobb Jr. Years ago Houston Fobb would come out to stay and visit with my mother's family, Seim and Betsy Fobb and daughters Margaret and Elizabeth. Mr. Fobb or any family members around the Eagletown, Oklahoma, area having any information, please write to me: Anthony Fobb Denetclaw #39.815, I.S.C.1, 9A-4-B, P.O. Box 14, Boise, ID 83707. You may also contact my mother, Elizabeth LaVatta, at Rt. 2 N. Box 169-F, Pocatello, ID 83202. Thank you for your help.

Anthony Fobb Denetclaw

## Choctaw helping others with cancer

To Chief Pyle,

Thank you and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for every card, newspaper and information that you've sent me over the years. I am working on surviving cancer and in the process of helping others obtain their medical records. Once again thank you very much.

Shanna McCoy  
Author, Healthcare Guide for Surviving Cancer  
P.O. Box 26333-01  
Little Rock, AR 72221  
Toll-free 877-LAF-LAST  
shanna\_mccoy@LAFproductions.com  
www.LAFproductions.com

## Hospital staff very efficient, courteous

Dear Lisa Isaac,

I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to your nursing staff in the operating room on the 21st of March. I was scheduled to have a procedure as they call it and was to check in at the desk at 0800 hours that morning. From the time that I arrived until the time that I left the area, I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to help me through and understand what was going to happen. I was a little apprehensive about the ordeal because I had not been in an operating room since I was in the first grade with a tonsil problem, but the attitude of the nurses and the doctor eased whatever problems I thought I might have. It was light conversation until it was time to go to work and then you could tell they were professionals, and good at their job. It was like clockwork, every move had a purpose, and every purpose had a completion. The doctor came in, said a few words, and then I woke up. I don't remember going to sleep, but remember waking up. My wife told me that I talked with the doctor but I don't seem to remember much about that.

Just thought that I would drop a word of thanks to all nurses and the doctor. I know that sometimes people just take others for granted, as well as the job that they do. I don't. I believe that if it's a job well done, I think a little word of appreciation to let the ones involved know, doesn't hurt at all. You have a very efficient, courteous and helpful staff, and I appreciate them all. Keep up the good work.

Jack England, Chief of Police  
Talihina, Oklahoma

## Programs benefitting youth

Dear Chief Pyle,

On behalf of the students and faculty of Whitesboro Schools, I want to thank you for all the programs you have which benefit our children. On February 28-March 1, Todd Baughman and Martina Hawkins presented the program on alcohol and substance abuse/drunken driving "I Died, Who's Next?" They were professional, courteous and very effective in their presentation. Our kids and faculty were very impressed; the message struck home bringing tears to many.

Thanks also for the summer work program which benefits some of our students financially. Thanks to all those who came to speak to our students concerning financial aid and others programs and issues. Through your leadership many good things are happening.

Alvin Branscum, Principal

## Adolescent Health Conference a success

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The 15th Annual Adolescent Health Conference held on March 28 was a complete success. Thank you for your continued support and contribution to our program. Your donation helped to provide over 100 presenters with lunch and beverages. The students who attended the conference were also provided beverages for lunch. Without your contribution this wouldn't have been possible. Thank you once again for your support.

Karla Sheffield, Alicia Mass and Lindy Riley  
The Oaks Area Prevention Resource Center

## Family appreciates assistance

To Charlene Grunstad and staff,

The family of Eva June Clay wishes to express their thanks and appreciation to the Choctaw Nation for their help and assistance in her burial services. We greatly appreciate you time and support.

The Clay Family

## Van driver does a great job

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The Hugo Clinic would like to express our appreciation to our van driver, Leon Wesley. Leon hasn't been with us long, but he's a very dependable employee. We have even had good responses from our patients. Thanks, Leon, keep up the good work.

The Hugo Clinic

## Sharing information

Dear Editor,

My dad, Frank Durant, is one-half Choctaw. We are distantly related to Randle, Sim and Ruby Durant. They are all now deceased. I was fortunate to meet Randle and Sim several years ago and it was definitely like meeting family. We also met David and Mae Reese and had our first fry bread. I'm sure David is serving Indian tacos in his new surrounding. They are both special in our hearts.

Dad is now in a nursing home in Merced, California. He loves to tell stories of growing up near Frogville and attending the Goodland Indian School. He has two brothers and a sister who are deceased. Dad enjoys the news I tell him from the Bishinik and was an avid reader until he became blind several years ago.

We are proud of our five-generation Durant family. Pictured are, from left, Glenna Parker McKay, Barbara Durant Parker, Trisha McKay Deal; center, Frank Durant holding Todd Anthony McKay Deal.

If anyone is related or would like to share information on the Rias Durant family, please contact me, Barbara, at bpmorningsky@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

Barbara Durant Parker

## Princess an ambassador for tribe

To Chief Pyle,

Erica McMillan is doing a wonderful job as the Miss Choctaw Nation Princess. The Native American communities in Oklahoma City and surrounding areas have come to know about the Choctaw Nation through her travels attending powwows and other Native American events. Erica and her family presented a gift to the Oklahoma City Powwow Club at their New Year's Day Powwow as a gesture of goodwill. In turn, Erica was honored with a song at the Oklahoma City Powwow Club benefit dance on March 11. When Erica was honored, the Choctaw Nation as a whole was also embraced. We look forward that the next Miss Choctaw Nation will continue her efforts as ambassador for the Choctaw Nation. Yakoke!

Perrin Deal  
Ok Choctaw Tribal Alliance Princess Committee Member

## Family appreciates generosity

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The Larry Behrens family would like to thank Shannon McDaniel, Tasha, Choctaw Casino and everyone who helped us for all of the generosity that you have shown to our family during Larry's transplant. You will always be in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you Marlow Construction and Brent Rich for the wonderful job done in putting in the heat and air.

Gregory E. Pyle  
Chief

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Judy Allen, Editor  
Lisa Reed, Assistant Editor  
Vonna Shults, Webmaster  
Brenda Wilson, Technical Assistant  
Melissa Stevens, Circulation Manager  
Janine Dills, Administrative Assistant

P.O. Drawer 1210  
Durant, OK 74702  
(580) 924-8280 • (800) 522-6170  
Fax (580) 924-4148  
www.choctawnation.com  
e-mail: bishinik@choctawnation.com

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From the Chief's desk ...

## Congress brought up to date on funding needs for programs and services



Chief Gregory E. Pyle

It was an honor, as Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, to present testimony before Congress recently on several issues. An appearance before the Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and related agencies gave me an opportunity to speak on the budget needs for programs and services.

Funding to continue the tremendous diabetes prevention and treatment projects was at the top of the list of specific requests brought to the Congressional table. American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest prevalence of type 2 diabetes in the world, not just the U.S. but the entire world! The Tulsa World recently reported that 7 percent of the U.S. population, 20.8 million Americans, has diabetes, a 14 percent increase over two years ago. According to the American Diabetes Association, the average cost of diabetes care per patient per year is over \$13,000. Pharmaceuticals are a large portion of that cost. The Indian Health Service reports that the diabetic per capita personal health care expenditure for American Indian and Alaska Native patients is \$2,133. The agency estimates that it would cost approximately \$425 million per year to care for those who are currently

diagnosed with diabetes.

Oklahoma ranks at the top of the states in the per capita number of citizens who suffer from diabetes. One in 10 people have diabetes in Oklahoma compared to one in 15 nationally. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), of the children born since 2000, one in three will develop diabetes before age 50 and it is one in two for Hispanic, African American and Native American populations.

It was important to cite statistics such as the 26 percent increase in American Indians/Alaskan Native populations compared to the general U.S. population increase of only 13 percent, showing that tribal people are a growing minority and that continued funding is necessary to meet the growing needs.

Testimony also offered a chance to request tribal funding to plan for a possible influenza pandemic and to ask that \$20 million be restored to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. It is always an honor to speak on behalf of the tribe, and I am very thankful that our leaders in Congress listen to our views.

From the Assistant Chief's desk ...

## Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk is May 20

May 20th is the day set aside this year to commemorate the long, sad march that our ancestors made, commonly known as the Trail of Tears.

The Choctaw walk will be held at Wheelock Academy in Millerton, Oklahoma, beginning at 10 a.m. Led by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard, the march will cover close to three miles from the park in Millerton to the historic academy grounds.

The Choctaws were the first of all the tribes to be forced from their homeland in 1831. There were two main routes, a northern Trail of Tears that went past Fort Smith and a southern Trail of Tears that came through



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

the Eagletown area.

Whether traveling by foot, wagon or boat, the trip was a miserable experience for our ancestors. Written and verbal

history tell of hunger, cold and sickness that was unparalleled in these people's lives.

In spite of the hardships and loss, the Choctaw people

proved their strength and resilience by not only surviving, but also flourishing. Our tribe today is 180,000 people strong, with members living all over the world.

I hope you can plan to join Chief Pyle, Tribal Council members and myself on May 20th at Wheelock as we spend time remembering the travails and accomplishments of our Choctaw tribe.

Please come early and park on the Wheelock grounds. A shuttle bus will be available to transport everyone to the park in Millerton where we will have a short ceremony and begin our commemorative walk.



### Miss Choctaw Nation attends language class graduation in OKC

Miss Choctaw Nation Erica McMillan, pictured with her aunt, Perrin Deal of Oklahoma City, and Oklahoma Choctaw Tribal Alliance Princess Rashay Castillo, attended the graduation commencement for the Choctaw Language Class held in Oklahoma City in February. Both Perrin and Rashay are students of the language class and graduated that night.

Erica is excited she could be a part of the graduation and be able to speak with the students of all ages, young and old. Also attending but not pictured was Richard Adams, Choctaw Nation Language Assistant Director.



Roy Lee Lindsey, OK Pork Council Executive Director; Senator Richard Lerblance, Brandon Spears, Brad Spears, Representative Jerry Ellis, Justin Daniel, Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry, William Powell, Tristian Evans, and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey.

## Jones Academy 4-H'ers successful at OKC

Justin Daniel, a sixth-grader at Jones Academy, exhibited the first place Class VII Hampshire barrow at the world's largest 4-H and FFA Junior Livestock Show. The Oklahoma Youth Expo was held in Oklahoma City March 11-20. This event hosted more than 5,000 barrow entries.

Justin's barrow, "Nine Eleven," was selected as Champion Hampshire barrow out of more than 650 Hampshires. He went on to capture the title of Reserve Grand Champion market bar-

row. The Reserve Grand Champion market barrow was bred and raised at Jones Academy.

Micah Tiger, an eighth-grader at Jones Academy, exhibited the first place Class VIII Hampshire barrow. Micah's barrow, "Survivor," was selected for premium sale honors. This barrow was also bred and raised at Jones Academy.

Other Jones Academy students participating in this event were Tristian Evans and William Powell. Tristian showed the second place Class II York-

shire. His barrow was selected as the first alternate Yorkshire in premium sale lineup. William showed the fourth place Class IV Poland China.

Jones Academy 4-H'ers appreciate Chief Gregory E. Pyle and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council for their continued support of 4-H and FFA programs. Jones Academy 4-H Club gives a special thanks to Assistant Chief Mike Bailey for his personal attendance and support at the Oklahoma City Junior Livestock Show.

## Important memorials

The month of May is a Memorial month. Our Choctaw people remember both our loved ones now and ancestors on the "Trail of Tears." Moreover, the men and women in the armed services ... defending our country.

The commemorative "Trail of Tears" walk will be on Saturday, May 20. The walk will be from Millerton to the historic Wheelock Female Academy campus in McCurtain County in southeast Oklahoma. Choctaws were forced to leave their homelands in Mississippi to walk to the Indian Territory now Oklahoma.

In October 1918 during World War I the Allied forces discovered that all messages were intercepted by the enemy. Officers of the 142nd Infantry Regiment called on 18 Choctaw soldiers to use for transmission of field telephone communications in their native language. These "Code Talkers" were used during the last two months of World War I.

In the Book of Joshua in the Old Testament we see a very important Memorial we are commanded to remember. In the first nine verses of Joshua chapter four we come to the momentous event in the history of the children of Israel when they crossed over Jordan from the wilderness into the land of Canaan.

Someone has said that the Old Testament is God's picture book. It teaches by type and illustration. In 1 Corinthians 10:11 (NIV) we read, "These things happened to them and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come."

The crossing of Jordan does not illustrate the passing of a soul into eternity. It does not illustrate the passing of a Christian from one level of Christian life to another. It marks the end of the self-life and the beginning of the Christ-life - the end of a life lived on the principle of effort and the beginning of a life lived on the principle of faith and obedience.

As the people watched, the 12 priests drew near to the river, but the river still rolled by. But as they put their feet in the very edge of the water, the water began to roll back as if moved by a mighty hand, and the priests walked into the bed of river on dry ground. The water parted before them, and we read in

Joshua 3:17, "And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan."

Neither can we get through to the Christ-life from the self-life unless each one of us has a clear, personal view of the Lord Jesus. That Ark went on in front. Until then the whole army had been perplexed and in despair as they looked at the impossible river. Now their thoughts were centered on the fact that the Lord was with them, as symbolized by the Ark of the Covenant. As they saw the Ark go into the river, the waters parted, the river bed became dry, and the impossibility was overcome!

What has this to teach us? That Jesus Christ the Savior went to the garden of Gethsemane, where the flood rolled by Him. Then He went to the cross on the hill of Calvary. He died, they laid Him in a tomb, outside of which was a sealed stone for a door. That was not all. We sing the hymn, "Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes." Paul writes in Colossians 2:15 (NIV) the Lord Jesus, "... having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

The path of the child of God from the wilderness to Canaan is by way of facing the impossible and looking up to a Risen Christ. Remember that beautiful hymn?

"Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood

"Shall never lose its power,

"Till all the ransomed Church of God

"Be saved to sin no more."

The power we need is in Jesus Christ. He holds back the impossible. The children of Israel approached and saw the Good Land, the Land that Flows with Milk and Honey, the Land of Canaan in the distance, but realized that between them and it was this flooded river. They saw the blessing, but between them and the blessing was an impossibility. Does that describe you today? You see the possibility of blessing, but between the blessing and you there is Jordan. You must step by faith up to the impossibility. Let it be no more self, but Christ.

God commands Joshua to



Chaplain's Corner

The Rev. Bertram Bobb

take 12 stones out of the bed of the river and to put them on the victory side of Jordan, Gilgal, as a lasting memory of what happened that day. Gilgal became holy ground to the people of Israel. It was the base of operations against the enemy.

And we read in chapter 4 verse 9 they took 12 more stones and put them in the river bed. These stones would be visible at all times of the year where the feet of the priests had stood, except when the Jordan was in flood.

In verse six we read the question, "... What mean ye by these stones?" We read in verse seven, "... these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel forever."

When future generations returned there, they would always ask, "What mean ye by these stones?" And the answer that was to be given, in the tenth verse of this chapter, was this, where the feet of the priests which bare the ark had stood firm, "... until everything was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to speak unto the people."

In the New Testament revelation of this Old Testament record, we see the central theme of the whole Bible - that death, burial and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There at Calvary Jesus died. He stood firm until everything that God the Father had commanded God the Son to say to His people was "finished." (John 19:30). There the sin question was settled. (John 3:16). Have you settled this sin question by confessing you are a sinner and trusting Jesus Christ and Him alone as your Savior? If you have never trusted Jesus as your own personal savior, will you do that today?

If you will let me know your prayer requests, I will pray for and with you. My mailing address is P.O. Box 9, Antlers, OK 74523.

Pray for America. Pray for Native Nation leaders.

### Dora and friends



A group of happy children and their chaperone, Matilda Davis, bused to Durant from Idabel to see Dora the Explorer at the coliseum on April 13.

## HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

# CARES Project paving the way to healthier lives for future generations



According to the Great Law of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy, there is a directive that states, "In our every deliberation we must consider the impact of our decision on the next seven generations." From this directive, the concept of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma CARES Project was born. As part of the initiative to transform mental health service delivery, the CARES Project

is a systems-of-care community serving the 10 1/2 counties (nearly 11,000 square miles) of the Choctaw Nation, located in rural southeastern Oklahoma. Every service provided by the CARES Project has one philosophy at the center: "Our Children Are Our Future."

The CARES Project's services are family-driven, youth-guided services with the goal of improving the emotional disharmony that the Native American child and family are experiencing in the home, school, or community. Through collaborations with state agencies,

such as Juvenile Justice and Human Services, as well as community partners, such as Boys and Girls Clubs and faith-based youth organizations, CARES works to ensure that agency service plans are met while still working to instill a sense of community and responsibility into the child and family's life. Additionally, CARES works to provide or link these Native children and families with the appropriate mental health services if needed.

As a partner in the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program, CARES provides behavioral rehabilitation counseling, as well as any psychological testing, with the children who are deemed at risk. In addition, CARES collaborates with the 88 school districts within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma service area to identify children at an early age who are experiencing emotional disharmony, possibly have a mental health disorder, or deemed at-risk.

Also, as part of the initiative to transform mental health care, CARES works to provide community-based services to the children and families. As is the case in many geographic areas where poverty is a concern, often times the individuals in need of healthcare (physical and mental) are unable to receive the treatment needed because of lack of transportation and lengthy commutes. Through the com-

munity-based approach, the children and families are able to receive the services they are in need of, often times in their homes or community centers.

Another component of the CARES Project is their nationally recognized public education curriculum, entitled "The Choices We Make." Awarded the Local Impact Award by National Indian Health Board for promoting positive health care among Native Americans, the curriculum focuses on promoting positive development through interactive activities with emphasis on team-building, Native American culture, positive self-esteem building, and drug and alcohol prevention. The curriculum has been presented at the Oklahoma Children's Mental Health Conference, as well as the Georgetown University's Training Institutes in 2005. The curriculum is utilized within every county of the Choctaw Nation to increase public awareness, reduce mental health stigma, and to increase individual awareness of community, mind, body and spirit.

The Choctaw Nation CARES Project is striving to promote healthy lifestyles and good mental health through the services provided. Every component of the services provided is created with one simple vision, "To Pave the Way to Healthier Lives for Future Generations."

## Kids in motion!!!



By the time they reach high school, 63 percent of children are no longer physically active. Why? Try TV, video games and personal computers, compounded by too much munching of high-calorie foods that add unwanted and unneeded pounds. If your kids fall within this group, you don't have to shake your head sadly. You can set a good example, be a role model and do the right things so your kids will, too.

Get off the couch and on a bike with your kids. Introduce them to exercise that's fun. Eat healthy. Instead of high calorie foods and snacks, turn to fruits and low- or non-fat foods. And once you get kids moving in the direction of fitness, chances are they'll keep going for the rest of their lives.

### START 'EM YOUNG

Did you know that physically active children have fewer chronic health problems than kids who are sedentary? Children who are fit have other statistics in their favor, too. They're better able to meet the demands of daily physical activity. They do better in physical-performance tests. They have a stronger self-image and more self-confidence, and they demonstrate greater improvement in skill- and health-related fitness. When you consider the facts, it makes good sense to encourage physical activity when your children are young. Parents, teachers and fitness professionals all have a role to play.

Each can help kids think positively about exercise and motivate them to make regular physical activity a lifetime pursuit.

### MOM AND DAD ARE THE BEST MOTIVATORS

As a parent, it's up to you to play the biggest part – bigger than a teacher, more important than a fitness professional. Your child looks to you for examples on how to talk, dress, act and lead a physically active or a non-physically active life.

Set a good example for your kids. Instead of spending the evening in front of the television, find some activity that will keep you moving. In warm weather, bike outdoors; if it's too cold, get a stationary bike, a treadmill or a trampoline. And it's never too late or too early to help your kids build strength and endurance. Push-ups and pull-ups are an excellent way to build upper-body strength. Jungle gyms and monkey bars are great for kids because they utilize their own body weight. And they're loads of fun.

Keep in mind that kids are not always naturally limber and that their muscles may be tight and vulnerable to injury during the growth spurts that occur during the elementary years. Be sure to include stretching as a part of your fitness activities.

Make sure that you concentrate on the positive aspects of exercise. It's a chance for a family to be together, to share good times and fun.

Avoid competition, discipline and embarrassment – things that can turn good times into moments of dread. And praise your children for trying. Praise them for doing.

### IT'S REALLY UP TO YOU

You can't tell kids that being active is fun. You have to show them. So take your kids hiking, biking, dancing, sledding, swimming and in-line skating. Skip rope or shoot baskets with them. Plan outings and activities that involve walking, like a trip to the zoo or the park, a nature trail hike, or even a walk through the mall. It's really up to you. If you want your kids to be healthy, happy teens and adults, it's up to you to do something about it.

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



Be Healthy Be Strong

## Keep your kids going in the right direction

### What parents need to know about under-aged drinking

Underage drinking is our nation's No. 1 youth drug problem, killing 6.5 times more youth than all illicit drugs combined. According to a national survey, over ten million people under the legal drinking age of 21 had consumed alcohol within a one month period. Almost seven million of them were binge drinkers and over two million were heavy drinkers.

Right now, underage drinkers are responsible for consuming almost 20 percent of all alcohol sold in the United States and 33 percent of all traffic fatalities (2004) were alcohol-related. It is estimated nine out of 10 teenage motor vehicle crashes involve alcohol. In Oklahoma, teenagers 15-19 years of age have the highest death rate from motor vehicle crashes; approximately 100 teenagers die each year from motor vehicle crashes.

Among teenagers in Oklahoma who were recently surveyed, 47 percent reported riding with a driver who was under the influence of alcohol.

Responsible parents should learn the signs of alcohol abuse in teenagers: secretive behaviors, change in personality or "normal mood, drop in grades,

change of friends, and changes in participation in extracurricular activities.

These seven steps should help you as parents to be prepared as possible to help deter your children from underage drinking:

- Set a good example for your children regarding the use of alcohol.
- Encourage your children to talk with you about their problems and concerns.
- Get to know your children's friends and discuss ways your children can avoid drinking when they are feeling pressured by peers.
- Talk to other parents about ways to send a consistent, clear message that underage drinking is not acceptable behavior or a "rite of passage."
- Encourage your children to participate in supervised activities and events that are challenging, fun and alcohol free.
- Learn the warning signs that indicate your children may be drinking and act promptly to get help.
- Make sure you're at home for all your children's parties and be sure those parties are alcohol-free.

**Healthy Living = Longer Life**

### Town Hall Meetings raise awareness

The Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles Taskforce in partnership with Rodger Green and the Talihina Community, recently became one of hundreds of communities nationwide that held a Town Hall Meeting to alert the community to new research on the risks of underage drinking and empower the community to take action to stop it. The federal government's Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD) is supporting Town Hall Meetings that took place in communities across America on or around March 28, 2006.

The Town Hall Meeting educated parents, teachers, officials, youth, and other community members about the impact underage drinking has on the community. Together, they discussed possible ways to address the issue.

Underage drinking is an important community concern. New data show that **29 percent** of the nation's youth **ages 12 to 20** have used alcohol illegally. At the Talihina meeting, the Assistant District Attorney reported that last year in Oklahoma youth ages 10-17 had received:

- 400 DUI Related Offenses
- 600 Violation Citations on Substance Abuse Issues
- 1000 Public Drunkenness

Research indicates that families exert a great deal of influence on whether a child uses alcohol later in life. "What parents may not realize," says Charles G. Curie, Chairman of ICCPUD and Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "is that children say their parents' disapproval of underage drinking is the key reason they have chosen not to drink."

SAMHSA reports that children and teens are less likely to abuse alcohol if parents are involved in their children's lives, make and enforce clear rules, and are positive role models.

## CHOCTAW NATION SUMMER FUN CAMP APPLICATION *Health Education & Fun in the Sun!*

**WHO?** CURRENT 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS **JUNE 6, 2006 8:00-3:30**  
CURRENT 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS **JUNE 27, 2006 8:00-3:30**  
CURRENT 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS **JUNE 29, 2006 8:00-3:30**

**WHERE?** BEAVERS BEND STATE PARK  
**WHAT?** SWIMMING, HIKING AND NATURE TOUR  
**WHAT TO BRING?** SWIMSUIT, TOWEL, SUNSCREEN, TENNIS SHOES  
**(LUNCH AND SNACK PROVIDED)**

**NAME OF APPLICANT** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be a resident of McCurtain County)

**PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**MY CHILD WILL BE ATTENDING THE:** 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CAMP  
5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CAMP  
6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CAMP

**CDIB CARD:** YES NO  
**GENDER:** MALE FEMALE  
**MY CHILD WILL NEED TRANSPORTATION:** YES NO

**IF NEEDING TRANSPORTATION, YOUR CHILD WILL BE PICKED UP AT 7:30 A.M. AND DROPPED OFF AT 3:30 P.M.**

**PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CHOCTAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER WHERE WE WILL NEED TO PICK UP AND DROP OFF YOUR CHILD:**

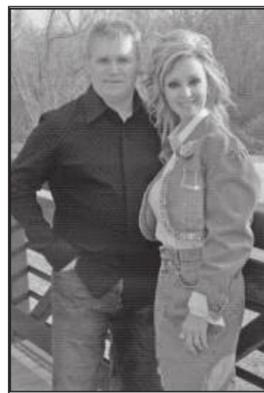
Bethel Broken Bow Idabel Smithville Wright City

**PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING:**

I understand that \_\_\_\_\_ will be participating in organized physical activities and that I will not hold the Choctaw Nation or other participating sponsors responsible for any injury that may occur during the duration of the camp. In addition, I give permission for my child to receive any medical attention necessary in case of an accident.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Camper Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE ABOVE APPLICATION AND MAIL TO:**  
Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles, P.O. Box 882, Hugo, OK 74743  
**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 31, 2006**  
Limited Space Available • For more information call 580-317-9335



**Eastern Gate**  
want to welcome  
you to

**Texoma  
Gospel Fest  
Southern Style  
2006**

Our second  
annual homecoming  
featuring gospel groups  
from Kentucky, Indiana  
and Oklahoma

**7 p.m.  
June 17  
at the  
Durant**

**High School  
auditorium**

A \$3 admission fee will  
be taken at the door.  
Door prizes will be  
given during the concert.  
*Eastern Gate looks  
forward to seeing you at  
this great night of  
Southern Gospel music!*

## Get Movin'

### Children running higher risks of health issues due to weight

The number of overweight children in the United States has taken a dramatic rise in recent years. The National Center for Health Statistics reports more than 14 percent of children and 11 percent of adolescents are overweight. An additional 14 percent are at risk of becoming overweight, said Dr. Janice Hermann, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension nutrition specialist.

"Being an overweight or obese adult increases the risks of disease conditions including high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancer," Hermann said. "Because being overweight in childhood increases the risk of being overweight in adulthood, overweight children may be at greater risk of developing these health conditions later in life."

There are many factors that contribute to being overweight. Some of these factors can be modified while others cannot.

Non-modifiable factors are genetics or family history, age and gender. A person can run a greater risk of getting a disease if there has been a family history of it.

Factors that can be modified include following a diet that contains foods from all food groups, as well as getting enough exercise.

Children need enough food for proper growth, but too many calories coupled with too little physical activity leads to being overweight.

Many schools have cut physical education because of funding. Other children spend sedentary hours watching television or playing computer and video games. Many children simply do not get any exercise at all.

"Since children need to grow, weight loss is not recommended unless guided by a health care provider," she said. "However, growth at proper rates and in a healthy manner is vital to good health."

To help ensure a child leads a healthy lifestyle, start by helping the child develop healthy eating habits. Help the child make sensible food choices. A healthy diet will include lean meat, poultry, fish, beans, nuts, milk, cheese and other dairy products, along with grains, fruits and vegetables.

Hermann said changes in a child's diet do not need to be dramatic or extremely restrictive. Start by serving low-fat milk rather than whole, low-fat yogurt and cheese and offer one cookie instead of two.

Children can improve their health and have fun at the same time by including moderate amounts of physical activity each day. Parents can set a good example by joining their child in physical activities. Go for a walk after dinner or ride bikes to the park on the weekend. Incorporating exercise into the family's lifestyle is good not only for the health of the family, but it also provides them with opportunities to spend more time together.

"Encourage your child to be physically active both at home and at school. If the school doesn't offer a physical education program, suggest your child play active games during recess," she said. "Helping a child start out living a healthy lifestyle is one of the greatest gifts a parent can give."

For additional information, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office or view the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Services' Family Consumer Science web-site at [www.fcs.okstate.edu](http://www.fcs.okstate.edu). Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers its program to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, or status as a veteran, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



CDR Donald Branham, right, presents Kris Hunley with a USPHS citation.



Administrator Reece Sherrill and Jason Carter, who received an award for the "Best Clinical Poster."

## Pharmacy staff recognized for service

The Choctaw Nation Health Service Authority is proud to announce recent recognition for its pharmacy staff. Awards were presented at the annual Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Services Pharmacy Continuing Education conference. This area covers Indian health facilities in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas and is one of the largest regions in the United States.

Winners of USPHS Achievement Medals included CDR Jill Mayes, Pharm D, BCPS of Idabel, LT John Bearden, Pharm D, of Stigler, LT Chris Holmes, Pharm D, of CNHCC and LCDR Ross Green, D.Ph., NCPS of CNHCC.

Winners of USPHS Citations were LT Randi Lanier, Pharm D, of CNHCC and LT Kris Hunley, Pharm D, of CNHCC.

Receiving USPHS Isolated Hardship ribbons and certificates were LT Travis Freeze, Pharm D, and LT Jason Carter, Pharm D. LCDR Clint Bullock was notified that he will receive a USPHS Commendation Medal.

The Choctaw Nation Health Service Authority Pharmacy staff was notified of an upcoming USPHS Outstanding Unit Commendation Medal.

The Choctaw Nation Health Service Authority was also awarded the "Oklahoma City Area's Pharmacy of the Year."

LT Jason Carter also received a plaque for the "Best Clinical Poster," titled "Cardiovascular Risk Assessment in Rural Oklahoma," and was based on data collected by CNHSA staff at the 2005 Labor Day Festival.

Also, CDR Donald Branham, B.S., D.Ph., NCPS, of CNHCC was named the "Outstanding Senior Pharmacist of the Year."



Administrator Reece Sherrill and CDR Donald Branham, "Outstanding Senior Pharmacist of the Year."



CNHCC Pharmacy staff is awarded "Oklahoma City Area's Pharmacy of the Year."



Dave Goerlitz tells of the dangers of tobacco.

## Former Winston Man brings anti-tobacco message to Atoka County

In honor of Kick Butts Day the Atoka/Coal Partnership For Change Coalition and SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) brought in the former Winston spokes model Dave

Goerlitz. Dave was their top spokesperson for years and now speaks out against them and how they target the youth of today!! Schools that participated in the event were Atoka High,

McCall Middle, Tushka High, Tushka Junior High, Caney, Lane, Harmony and Stringtown.

Dave talks about his personal experience and how he once used to promote and sell this deadly product to young boys. He brought reality to life by making the kids see that these big tobacco companies don't care about them - they just want to get them hooked for life!!

Jamie Hyatt president of Atoka SWAT stated, "The students really felt he made a huge impact on why using tobacco was so dangerous."

Dave was welcomed by Project HACC with a breakfast meet and greet on Thursday, April 6, at the Atoka County Health Department. We hope to bring Dave back in the efforts of making tobacco control a top priority in Atoka County.

For more information about the Tobacco Prevention Program contact Amber Gammon at 580-889-2116.



## Bennington Head Start has new bus

The staff and children at Bennington Choctaw Nation Head Start want to send Ted Dosh and all the other Tribal Council members a big "yakoke," for getting us a new bus. The built-in car seats are a wonderful asset. Again, thanks for all you do.

Pictured are Mrs. Becky, Ms. June, Thomas, Anhelica, Jaci, Hayden, Cadean, Hasklee, Sarah, Kervin, Timothy, Cody, Kendra, Gunner, DeAnn and Ms. Brandi.

## Things that can break your heart

*A sad movie ... your first love ... losing a championship ... your first child leaving home ... DIABETES*

The complications of diabetes often go undiagnosed and are far more serious than you might think. Most people with diabetes also have high blood pressure and cholesterol, which can cause severe heart damage. In fact, two out of three people with diabetes die from heart disease or stroke. But it's not too late. You can reduce your risk of heart disease and stroke by lowering your blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol.

More than 41 million Americans are well on their way to developing diabetes and most don't even know it. They have a condition called prediabetes, which means their blood glucose levels are higher than normal, but not yet diabetic. The good news is there is now scientific proof that they can prevent or delay the disease and its devastating complications. The key to diabetes prevention is taking small steps toward living a healthier life. Here are several small steps you can take today to live a healthier life and prevent or delay diabetes:

- **It's about taking small steps:** Losing 10 to 15 pounds if you weigh 200 pounds; walking briskly for 30 minutes most days; and making healthy food choices.
- **It's about big rewards:** Living a longer and healthier life - and avoiding serious health problems such as heart attacks,

strokes, blindness, kidney failure, or amputation.

- **Find out if you are a risk:** Talk to your health care provider at your next visit about risk factors.
- **Set realistic goals:** Start by making small changes. For example, try to get 15 minutes of physical activity a day this week. Each week add five minutes until you build up to the recommended 30 minutes a day, five days a week.
- **Make better food choices:** Try to eat more fruits and vegetables, beans, and grains. Reduce the amount of fat in your diet. Choose grilled or baked foods instead of fried.
- **Record your progress:** Write down everything you eat and drink. Keeping a food diary is one of the most effective ways to lose weight and keep it off. Review this diary with your health care provider.
- **Keep at it:** Making even modest lifestyle changes can be tough in the beginning. Try adding one new healthy change a week. Always get back on track, even if you fall off a few times. The key is just to keep at it.

All information was collected from the website [www.ndep.nih.gov](http://www.ndep.nih.gov). For more information regarding this topic go to [www.ndep.nih.gov](http://www.ndep.nih.gov). If you need further assistance contact Raina Sparks, community and clinical dietitian, 1-800-349-7026.

To the Youth of the Nation ...

## Why such a gap between adults and teens?

By Cody Peters, President Youth Advisory Board

Why is there such a separation between adults and teenagers? Today many parents and their teenagers are not connecting on any level, and it's causing serious problems. This is nothing new, but it is a problem that is on the rise and needs to be stopped before it goes too far.

If we look deep into this problem, we automatically know that it's a two-part deal: the parents/adults and the teenagers/students.

Parents/Adults: There is a serious gap in the communication field between you and teens. This is the first step in dealing with teens. We want you to listen to us, to our side of the story. Too many adults/parents try to control and head-over the entire situation. They usually will not listen

to what the student has to say. This frustrates us greatly! I know parents are right 99 percent of the time, but there is still that 1 percent of the time when you're not always right!

Please listen to your teens and what they have to say, and then guide them into the direction in which you want them to go. Talk with your teen about different situations and problems that we face in our life. Keyword "TALK," don't shout, argue, or try ruling over us, talk calmly with us about the present situation and I guarantee you they will listen.

Teenagers/Students: The communication problem does not all fall on the shoulders of our parents/adults. I believe it's equally our fault, too! Too many times we think we know everything and that we don't have to listen

to what anyone else has to say. WRONG! There are many wise adults around us that have been on the same road that we are on, and if we listen to them and talk with them we will learn a ton. My fellow teens we are not invincible and we don't know everything about anything!!! We still have our whole lives ahead of us, and we are not adults until 18. So let's step back and listen to our parents/adults and receive what they want to teach us about life!

Remember: If the problem between adults and teens continues, families will continue to break, the adoption rate will rise, and rate of crime in today's teens will rise, all as a result of the gap between adults and teens! Start listening to one another and we most definitely will see a greater and brighter future!

## PEOPLE YOU KNOW

### Young fireman turning five

Fireman Donovan Martin celebrated his fifth birthday on April 23. He celebrated with his parents, Alfonso and Gwen Martin; his brother, Alex, and his sister, Vanessa. Also wishing him a happy birthday are his grandparents, Laura Gibson of Grannis, Orlando Gibson of Wright City and Alfonso and Plasia Martin of Mexico.



### Terrific two

Lee and Linda Knight would like to wish a happy birthday to their granddaughter, MaKayla Hood, who turned two years old on March 8. She celebrated her birthday with a Dora theme party with her family and friends. Her Papa Lee celebrated his birthday on March 9. MaKayla is the daughter of Christie and Thomas Hood of Hugo. Her other grandparents are Kathy and Charles Hood of Hugo. Also, their granddaughter, Sharena Ward, celebrated her 15th birthday and happy anniversary wishes are sent to Christie and Thomas Hood on April 7.



### Look who's three

Le' Ashley Nicole Jefferson and DeWayne Taylor would like to wish their daughter, Leilani Hateya Taylor, a happy third birthday on April 6. Her grandparents are Elias Jr. and Phyllis Roberts and Mary Taylor, all of Broken Bow. She is the great-granddaughter of Elias Sr. and Josephine Roberts of Wright City, Mary Jane Jefferson of Broken Bow and Edgar and Hazel Taylor of Sobol. Leila would like to wish her Maw a happy birthday on April 21 and Uncle Cam a happy birthday on April 12.



### Birthday wishes

Samantha Marie Navarro turned four years old on December 22 and her brother, Mark Navarro, turned three on January 7. Samantha is named after her great-great-grandmother, Samantha Fobb Williams, and her grandmother, Anita Marie Navarro. Mark is named after the Apostle Mark. Both Samantha and Mark are happy and smart, funny little Choctaws. Happy birthday!



### Divisional Princess

Kimberly Nicole Autrey, 6, competed in a Future Kings and Queens Pageant on January 28 at the Mountain View Mall in Ardmore. It was this branch of the pageant's last and final pageant. Kim Bobbitt was a really great pageant director and will be missed as a director by all.



Kimberly competed in the pageant-wear division and received Divisional Princess in her age group. She also received Divisional Princess in casual-wear. She received the second highest score in the pageant in Me and My Favorite Doll, Snapshot Composite and Photo Portfolio.

Proud parents are Charles and Leeann Autrey of Pauls Valley. She is little sister of Chazz and Zachary Autrey of Pauls Valley. Grandparents are Don and Peggy McCarty of Wynnewood, Larry Autrey of Piedmont and Connie Espander of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

### Birthday wishes

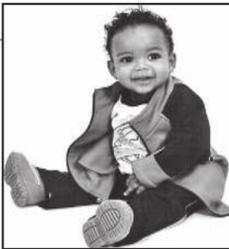
Happy belated birthday to our son, Julian Ned Taylor, who turned six years old on February 4. Proud parents are Ned and Geneva Taylor of Cherokee, North Carolina. Proud grandparents are Dolly Taylor of Cherokee and Jimmie and Ruthie Jefferson of Bethel.



Also, happy birthday to Darrell Jefferson on March 6 from your sister, Geneva.

### Congratulations

Derrick and Tyreese McIntosh would like to send out congratulations to their eight-month-old son, Derrick Wayne McIntosh Jr., grandson of the late Herbert McIntosh and Mary McIntosh of McAlester. Derrick Jr. was recently named the Most Beautiful Baby in the Most Beautiful Baby Regional Contest held in Tulsa on March 15. Because of this he will compete in the State Competition on May 20 and 21 in Kansas for a chance of Winning the Oklahoma State Title of Most Beautiful Baby 2006 and a chance to win a \$5,000 savings bond. Derrick Jr. will also have a chance at competing in the national competition for the national title and a \$25,000 savings bond. We would like to say to you that he is truly a Star. Derrick Jr. received a first place trophy and medallion for the Most Beautiful Baby, age 8-14 months.



### Happy belated birthday, Vicki

We would like to wish Vicki Smith a very happy belated 38th birthday. She celebrated her birthday on March 23. Happy birthday wishes go out to her from her mom and all her family.

### Never too old to have fun!

Miko would like to wish his Papa a happy 51st birthday on August 5; his Nanny a happy 50th birthday on July 14 and his Auntie Sue Hicks a happy birthday on July 11.



### Bianca turns 17

Birthday wishes are sent out to Bianca Noahubi who turned 17 on March 28. Bianca attends Battiest High School and is a member of the Lady Panthers softball team. Wishing her a happy birthday are her mom, Katie; dad, Noah; brother and sisters, Felicia, Olivia and Noley, and niece, Felicity. We are very proud of you.



### Happy birthday, Kiercy

Happy fifth birthday to Kiercy Leigh Skieens of Durant. Kiercy is the daughter of Mandi Gross and Taylor Skieens. She is the granddaughter of Randy and Lillian Gross and Jim Bob and Becky Skieens, all of Wright City. Kiercy, we wish you a very happy birthday!

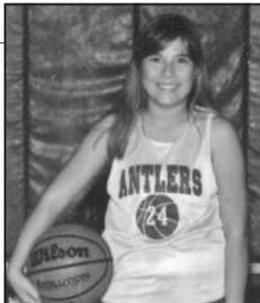


### Family birthdays

Lisa Manis celebrated her 49th birthday on April 27. Wishing her a very special birthday are her husband, Deen; son, Darius; and special granddaughters, Maddison Robertson, Lanny-Ember. Sending wishes to Alyce Caldwell for a very special and happy birthday on April 29 are her son, Deen; daughter-in-law, Lisa; and great-granddaughter, Maddison; Deen would also like to wish his lovely daughter, Dena L. Manis, a happy birthday on her 41st birthday, May 27.

### Happy 12th, Taylor

Jayden and Jacob would like to wish their big sister, Taylor, a happy birthday on April 22. Taylor attends Antlers Middle School and is in the sixth grade. She plays basketball, softball, and is involved in Girl Scouts. She also plays the flute in the band and attends all camps and activities sponsored by the Choctaw Nation and on the A & B Honor Roll. Taylor's parents are Regina Tedder of Antlers and Eddie Tedder of Hugo. Her grandparents are Janet and the late Williston Taylor of Antlers and James and Darlene Tedder, both of Hugo.



### Happy fourth birthday, Jayden

Taylor and Jacob would like to wish their brother, Jayden, a happy fourth birthday on April 29. He attends the Choctaw Nation Head Start in Antlers. His parents are Regina Tedder of Antlers and Eddie Tedder of Hugo. His grandparents are Janet and the late Williston Taylor of Antlers and James and Darlene Tedder, both of Hugo.



### Devon turns 14

Devon Taylor Liljequist of Ada turned 14 on April 2. She was born in Bryan, Texas, to K.C. and Debbie Hightower Liljequist and is currently in the eighth grade at Ada Junior High. Devon is on the honor roll, plays tennis and is on the AJHS Spirit Squad. She is wished a very happy birthday by her parents; grandparents, Bill and Betty Meneley of Ada, Jim and Sherri Hightower of McLoud and Frances Liljequist of Ada; and her uncles, Mark Hightower of Ada and Robert Hightower of McLoud.



### Look who's two!

Super happy birthday to Sean Kenneth Barnes who turned two years old on April 26.



### Happy birthday wishes

Clarissa Bohanan celebrated her 18th birthday on April 28. She is a senior at Smithville High School. Her little brother, Trenton Dees, celebrated his eighth birthday on April 29. He is in the second grade at Smithville Elementary. Happy birthday kids, from Mom, Michelle Carney, and Jay Hackworth; Pepaw Elton and Memaw Rozetta Carney; great-grandparents, Laura, and the late Edmond Carney, all of Smithville.



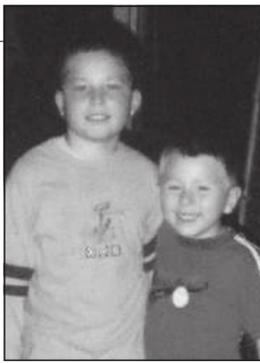
### Sisters celebrate birthdays

Trista and Cheyenne Shomo, the daughters of Billy and Tina Shomo of Broken Bow, are celebrating May birthdays. Trista turned 20 on May 9. She attends SOSU in Durant and is a member of the Lady Savage Storm basketball team. Cheyenne will turn 7 on May 20 and attends Dierks Elementary where she is in the first grade. They are the granddaughters of Johnnie Sherwood of Tishomingo and the late Timothy Sr. and Effie Shomo.



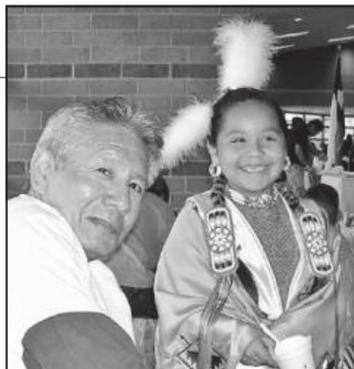
### Happy birthday

Logan Nash Lewis would like to wish his big brother, Damian Jade Mathews, a very happy birthday. Damian turned 11 years old on March 22. He is a fifth-grader at Bennett Elementary in Broken Bow. He is the son of Heather and Tony Monahan and John Mathews. Grandparents are Garry and Theresa Colbert and Shirley Oglesby of Broken Bow. Great-grandmother is Mary Jane Jefferson of Broken Bow.



### Tops at pow-wow

Randy and Donya Battiest of Wylie, Texas, would like to congratulate their daughter, Taylor, on winning first place in the little girls division contest at the Dallas Independent School District Pow-Wow on March 25. She is pictured with her Grandpa, Arnold Taylor, who also had his 60th birthday on March 27. He suffered a severe stroke about a year and a half ago and is doing fine, however he misses pitching fast-pitch softball.



### Wow! 57 and still in heaven

Bill and Louise Amos celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary on March 26, 2006. They enjoyed an afternoon of gospel singing at Point of Day Celebration Center with approximately 100 friends and family in attendance. Among those celebrating in the festivities were 10 singing groups. Joining the celebration were Councilmen Hap Ward and



Mike Amos. The family of Mike Amos sang for the couple, which was followed with a "Special Presentation" by their four-year-old grandson, Andrew, and ten-year-old granddaughter, Nikki.

Bill and Louise would like to thank everyone for making this day a success and a time of good fellowship.

### Congratulations!

Randall and Brenda Wilson of Durant would like to announce the marriage of their son, Eric Eugene Littrell, to Jamie Rashell, the daughter of Jim Robertson and Joni Griffin of Oregon.



Eric and Jamie were married on April 7, 2006, in Durant. A reception followed at the house of the groom's parents.

We wish the happy couple all the best.

### April wedding

Shawna Starkey and Nicholas BeCraft were married on April 20, 2006, at Chandler Park, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Congratulations!

### Birthday singing held for Lee Roy Ward

A singing was held at the Faith Indian Baptist Church in Antlers in honor of Lee Roy Ward's birthday April 22. Lee Roy turned 91 years old. Happy birthday!

### Happy birthday

Phyllis Williams of McAlester would like to wish her daughter, Crystal Smith of Bartlesville, and her nephew, Travis Kenieutubbe of McAlester, a happy belated birthday. Crystal celebrated her birthday on March 9 and Travis on March 11. Travis is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Osborne Kenieutubbe of McAlester.

### Sanine Antoinette Holt celebrates 59 in big way

For the first time in 58 years, Sanine Holt was delighted to celebrate her 59th birthday, March 20, as a Choctaw. Having searched for her Choctaw family for over 35 years. She is happy to trace three original enrollees: great-great-grandmother Betsey Bennett with great-great-grandfather Louis Bennett (both full-blood Mississippi Choctaw), and their granddaughter, 8-year-old Lillie Bell Hickerson (Fisher), her grandmother.

### Happy birthday wishes

Late birthday wishes go out to Katie Noahubi on February 3; Olivia Noahubi on February 8; and Andy Noahubi on February 17. Happy birthday from your family. We are proud of each of you.

### Lance turns 14

His family would like to wish Lance Berry a happy 14th birthday on April 15. Lance is a student at Puterbaugh Middle School in McAlester, Oklahoma. Happy birthday!



### Happy 12th birthday

Happy birthday to Chu'sa Peter Gipson who will celebrate his 12th birthday on May 10. He is the son of Nehemiah and Margaret Gipson. He also has an older brother, O'ssi Gipson. He is the grandson of the late Willie and Mary Jane Gipson and Jasper and Savannah Scott, all of Atoka.



### Look who's one!

Happy birthday to Caleb Joel Perry who turned one on April 15. Caleb is the son of David Perry and Cassandra Salinas of Atoka. He is the grandson of Aleta Perry of Atoka, Carrie Salinas of Coalgate and Joe Salinas of Carrollton, Texas, as well as the great-grandson of Virgil and Louise Ott of Coalgate. He has numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins that would like to wish him a very happy birthday along with a special birthday wish from his brother and sister, Jeffery and Kylee Perry of Tulsa.





## Krebs sisters rising in power lift competitions

Congratulations to Kimberly Krebs, a senior at Howe High School, pictured above left with her dad. Kimberly placed fifth in the Texas State Power Lift competition. She was awarded a \$500 scholarship from the powerlifting association.

Haley Krebs, above right, was chosen as an alternate in the Tex-

as State Meet. This is her first year to on the Power Lift team.

Kimberly and Haley are the daughters of Lynn and Janet Krebs, all of Howe, Texas.

Their family from Oklahoma would like to congratulate both girls on a job well done! Good luck next year.

## Outstanding student

Rhiannon Lee Weaver is graduating June 3, 2006, in Irving, Texas. She is planning to attend Tarrant County College in the dental program for two years to earn a bachelor's degree and at that time she will be able to take her test to become a licensed dental hygienist. She plans on attending the Baylor College of Dentistry (owned by Texas A&M) and after that to become an orthodontist.

Rhiannon was just awarded the Texas Life Membership Award for outstanding volunteer service and has over 300 hours of volunteer service. She is the membership chairman for the Academy of Irving ISD PTSA, and through her leadership of their PTA Membership Drive, the Academy of Irving ISD won the trophy for the highest number of memberships at the high school level. She helped their PTSA win second place in the Irving Arts Center Holiday Tree Decorating contest. Rhiannon attended the PTA Convention 2006, the Area 16 Organizational Election Meeting and plans to attend the Texas PTA Summer Leadership Seminar in Austin.

She is a member of the Student Council, HOSA, and a member of the Supporters of Seniors (SOS - Class of 2006) and actively helps raise money for all of those organizations. She has been a traveling dental intern for the SITE program for the academy for two years and has worked at many local dental practices in Irving.

Her parents, Herman and Carla Weaver, are very proud of the person she is and knows she will succeed and reach her goals because she is a determined young lady. Rhiannon is loved and admired by her family and friends who wish her well always.



## Enright joins Army

Wesley Enright, 18, of Choctaw enlisted in the U.S. Army on March 14. A graduate of Choctaw High School and the son of Brian Enright and Roberta L. Watson-Enright, he plans to serve for four years and then return to Oklahoma where he will attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. Good luck, Wes, and may God bless.



## All-Star

C.J. Trent of Oklahoma City has been selected to play in the 2006 Jim Thorpe All-Star Football Game to be held June 2. C.J. played center for the Putnam City Pirates and helped lead his team to win District 6-A2 Champs for 2005. He has also received awards for All-District Offensive Lineman as well as All-Conference Offensive Lineman. He will be attending Oklahoma Panhandle State University and playing on the Aggie football team this fall.

C.J. attends Chahta Anumpa in Oklahoma City along with his mother, Carol Trent.



## OSU graduate

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Erica Sue Amos on her graduation in December 2005 from Oklahoma State University. Erica earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Sciences.



## Vaughn graduates summa cum laude

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Cara Scott Vaughn who graduates summa cum laude in December from Mars Hill College. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education.

## Pool earns accounting degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Lori A. Pool. She graduated in December 2005 from the University of Texas at Tyler with a BBA, Accounting.

## December OU grad

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Jessica Leigh Khehans who graduated in December 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Oklahoma.



## Betts completes chemistry degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Carrie Ann Betts who earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Carrie graduated in December 2005.

## Baken graduates

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Kisha Renee Baken who graduated from Southern Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration on December 17, 2005.



## Domingue earns marketing degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Melissa Ann Domingue on earning her marketing degree in December from Georgia State University.



## MHS senior

Jon-Andrew Martin is a senior at McAlester High School. He is catcher for the McAlester Buffaloes baseball team. Jon-Andrew is very proud of his Choctaw heritage. He is very proud of his great-grandmother, Mary Wall, and his grandmother, Betty Griffith, who both reside in Ardmore. Jon-Andrew is looking forward to going to college and playing baseball.



## Student to attend West Point

Tristan Lilley, a senior at Durant High School, has been accepted to prestigious West Point Academy. Tristan chose his path in life after listening to his grandfather's stories of World War II. He will report June 26 for eight weeks of basic training at Fort Buckner, 15 miles north of West Point. Tristan is grateful for recommendations from teachers and nominations from U.S. Senators and Congressmen James Inhofe, Dan Boren and Tom Coburn. He would also like to personally thank Chief Greg Pyle for his help in this process. Congratulations, Tristan, on your dedication and hard work.



## Gibson member of Broken Bow Class of 2006

Broken Bow Senior Randon Gibson has perfect attendance for eight years and is a member of NHS, OHS, Who's Who Among American High School Students and National Honor Roll. He was nominated as a member of the Sons of the American Legion and has an academic award in math and science. He was senior of the month for August and was outstanding junior boy.

Brandon has been a member of the varsity baseball team for four years and is a member of History Club and BPA where he was historian for two years.

He plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma and major in petroleum engineering.

Brandon is the son of Sherry Ortiz and the grandson of Isabella Gibson, both of Broken Bow.



U.S. Congressman Elijah Cummings, Sara-Jane Smallwood and Kyle Ensley.

## Smallwood attends Harvard conference

Sara-Jane Smallwood of Clayton recently attended the Sixth Annual Public Policy and Leadership Conference sponsored by the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Smallwood, along with Kyle Ensley of Valliant, were the first Oklahoma State University students chosen to attend this prestigious conference.

Smallwood is an agricultural communications sophomore and Ensley is an international business freshman.

Smallwood is very appreciative for this experience. She has plans for a career in public service and is looking at pursuing a graduate degree in Native American and environmental and natural resource public policy. Smallwood is currently being recruited for the Kennedy School of Government's Native American program.

This summer, Sara-Jane will travel to Washington, D.C., for an internship with Washington Internship for Native Students program. She has been placed in the USDA Commodity Imports Analysis and Operations where she will be working on agriculture policy related to plant health import regulations.

## Perkins graduates

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Troy Thomas Perkins who graduated from the California University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts/English Literature in December of 2005.

## CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

### Scholarship for High School Seniors

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School currently attending \_\_\_\_\_

Name of post secondary education facility you plan to attend \_\_\_\_\_

Students must prove enrollment with a post secondary education facility, by letter of Admission.

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Class Rank \_\_\_\_\_ ACT/SAT scores \_\_\_\_\_

(Information regarding GPA, Class Rank, and ACT/SAT scores is optional)

Academic Achievement/Awards \_\_\_\_\_

Interests/Hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

### Requirements for Scholarship

- Must have a typed, double spaced essay of 250-500 words describing your future educational plans/goals.
- Must be a Choctaw Tribal Member and attach a copy of Tribal Membership & CDIB card.
- All applications must be postmarked by July 3, 2006.
- Winning applicants will be notified by July 17, 2006.

Please mail your application and essay to:

Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles, P.O. Box 882, Hugo, OK 74743

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$500.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$250.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$150.00

Sponsored by:

Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

**CHOCTAW Casino Resort** is Prepping for **DASH FOR CASH!**

**June 3 & 4, 2006**  
**Choctaw Casino Resort & Arena**  
**Durant, Oklahoma**

Added money Guaranteed, NO MATTER the number of contestants.

580 Entry fees, one time \$20 processing fee. For an entry form, more information and complete rules go to [www.choctawcoliseum.com](http://www.choctawcoliseum.com) or call 580-931-8645.

Exhibition will open at 9:00 a.m. June 2nd.  
 \$5 per run.

One race run over two days. Starts Saturday June 3rd at 9 a.m. and Sunday June 4th at 9 a.m.

**4D Format**  
 with 1/2, 1/2, 1/2, Splits

**\$10,000 added Cash**

**580-931-8645**  
[www.choctawcoliseum.com](http://www.choctawcoliseum.com)

## NURSERY NEWS

### Aiana Sky Holman

Cheyenne Lake Holman of Wilburton is proud to announce the birth of her baby sister, Aiana Sky. Aiana blessed us with her appearance at 3:30 p.m. on February 28, 2006, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. She weighed 8 pounds 6 ounces and was 19 inches long. Aiana and Cheyenne are the daughters of Crystal Holman and Billy Jones and the granddaughters of Eulema Holman and Jesse James, also of Wilburton, and the late Alfred Holman. We would also like to congratulate our cousin, Tamara James, on all her accomplishments.



### Nathan Ishcomer

Bradley and Nicole Ishcomer are pleased to announce the birth of their first-born son, Nathan Lane Ishcomer. Nathan was born at 8:53 a.m. on October 7, 2005, at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City. Nathan weighed in at 6 pounds 5 ounces and was 18.25 inches long. Proud grandparents include Nathan and Patty Ishcomer of Quanah, Texas, Pamela Ruddle of Yukon, Oklahoma, and Arthur Barela of Las Cruces, New Mexico. Great-grandparents include Lana and Dan Heusel, and the late Daniel and Josephine Ishcomer, Ernest and Teresa Barela, and Clifford and Pauline Meyers.



### Javen Lee Crosby

Javen Lee Crosby was born at 11:26 a.m. on January 10, 2006, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. He weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces. Javen is the newborn son of Heather Watson of Watson and Phillip Crosby of Wright City. He is the grandson of George and Daisy Watson of Watson and the first for Anthony and Louella Crosby of Wright City.



### Drake Logan Stubbs

Amber Hagger of Hugo and J.D. Stubbs of Boswell would like to announce the birth of their first child, Drake Logan Stubbs. Drake was born March 1, 2006, at Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma, Durant. He weighed 6 pounds 8.5 ounces and was 19 inches long. Drake's grandparents are Becky Peters of Hugo and Walter Dodds of Valliant and John and Rhoda Stubbs of Boswell. His great-grandparents are Betty Shawhart and the late Clem Shawhart of Fort Towson, John and Georgia Stubbs of Boswell and Mary Wall of Boswell. Drake has two uncles, Cody Peters and Canyon Taylor of Hugo, and one aunt, Jackie Stubbs of Boswell.



### Carolyn Tehya Billy

Carolyn Tehya Billy was born March 7, 2006, at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma. Carolyn weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and was 19.2 inches long. Proud parents are Michael and Karen Billy of Wright City. Proud grandparents are Wendell Swartz and the late James W. Billy of Broken Bow and Mike and Laverne Elliott of Wright City.



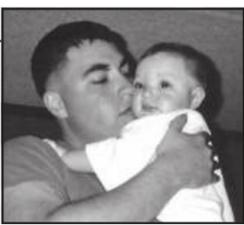
### Brady Gerrit Lahpor

Jan Jaap and Kaci Lahpor of Austin, Texas, are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, Brady Gerrit Lahpor, born at 12:54 p.m. on March 28, 2006, at Seton SW Hospital. He weighed 7 pounds 11.2 ounces and was 21.25 inches long. Grandparents are Charles Clark and Vicki Andrews of Austin and Jaap Lahpor and Marianne Plummakers of Utrecht, The Netherlands. Great-grandparents are Irene Clark of Durant and Bill and Margie Andrews of Bennington. Great-great-grandmother is Mrs. A.L. White of Bennington.



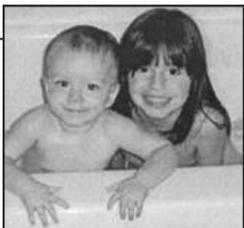
### Andrew 'Andy' French

Our family would like to welcome a new addition to our family. Andrew "Andy" French who was born in Nashville, Tennessee, on May 8, 2005, a day after Grandma Elizabeth's birthday. His parents are John Robert French and Darlene Garcia French, stationed in Fort Stewart, Georgia. Andy's grandparents are Elizabeth Ann Tonihka McKinney and Cyrus McKinney of Oklahoma City and Gary French of Orlando, Florida. Andy's the third grandchild we have been blessed with. Great-grandparents are the late Wilson and Bertha Ward Tonihka and the late Clyde and Nona French. Andy is the great-great-grandchild of the late Lena Amos Hicks.



### Coen William French

We would like to "welcome" our second grandchild, Coen William French, who was born in Orlando, Florida, on November 7, 2004, two days before Uncle Bill and Uncle Robert's birthdays. His parents are Gary Don French and Sarah (Santago) French of Tavares, Florida, and his sister, Madalyn. Coen's grandparents are Elizabeth Ann Tonihka McKinney and Cyrus McKinney of Oklahoma City. Also Gary French of Orlando, Florida. Great-grandparents are the late Wilson and Bertha Ward Tonihka and the late Clyde and Nona French. Coen is the great-great grandchild of the late Lena Amos



Choctaw Nation Head Start in Idabel is among 14 Head Start groups participating in a 50-step exercise program.

## Head Starts moving physically forward

In an effort to illustrate to children how simple every day activities can really add up physically, Choctaw Nation Head Start has kept a record of how many steps a child takes, based on a minimum of 50 steps a day for each day the children attended school. This project began on February 6, 2006, and ended six weeks later on April 14.

Childhood obesity and other health issues related to physical inactivity in youngsters are becoming an epidemic in America. More and more children are glued to the television and/or computer screens and don't get as much physical activity as they should. In turn, when they become adults, it is harder to change these habits, which can lead to adult obesity and all too often, type II diabetes.

The total steps taken by children in the 14 Choctaw Nation Head Start centers are as follows: Antlers - 54,900; Atoka - 29,250; Bennington - 18,000; Bethel - 7,800; Broken Bow - 49,100; Coalgate - 14,900; Durant - 59,450; Hugo - 66,250; Idabel - 14,750; McAlester - 59,950; Poteau - 21,750; Stigler - 24,000; Wilburton - 27,150; Wright City - 50,400. The total steps, taken by all Head Start children in a six-week period, were 497,650, or approximately 95 miles.

Physical awareness is best started early to assure a long, healthy adult life. Encourage children to be more physically active. Limit television/computer time each day and be a good example for them by doing physical activities with them. It will make a huge difference to them ... and to you.

Physical awareness is best started early to assure a long, healthy adult life. Encourage children to be more physically active. Limit television/computer time each day and be a good example for them by doing physical activities with them. It will make a huge difference to them ... and to you.

## Breastfeeding peer counselor program offered through WIC

Choctaw Nation WIC has a new program! We now offer a Peer Counselor program for prenatal and breastfeeding moms. Our Peer Counselors are Kimberly Lain and Ami Richards. Kimberly and Ami help breastfeeding moms throughout their breastfeeding experience with their baby. We offer telephone counseling, educational materials on breastfeeding, and breastfeeding classes for our prenatal and breastfeeding moms.



Kimberly Lain and Ami Richards are peer counselors in a new program offered through Choctaw Nation WIC to aid prenatal and breastfeeding moms.

**TALIHINA**  
10 a.m.-12 noon, Tuesday, May 9  
Choctaw Community Center

**IDABEL**  
10 a.m.-12 noon, Tuesday, May 16  
Choctaw Community Center

**POTEAU**  
10 a.m.-12 p.m., Tuesday, May 23  
Choctaw Community Center

## WIC Junk the junk food

Do you eat junk food? You may think junk food is a McDonald's double cheeseburger with French fries, a bag of chips, or a candy bar. But even some foods you prepare at home may not be as healthy as you think. Most fried foods are full of fat. Chicken and potatoes are good for you, but not if they are cooked with lots of grease or butter. Try to stay away from foods with lots of sugar or fat. The list at right will help you make healthy choices.

Children follow our example more than we know. If we want them to eat healthy we must eat healthy ourselves. Make a few changes at a time and see if the family meals and snacks become healthier for everyone.

### INSTEAD OF ...

French fries  
Refried beans  
Doughnuts  
Fast-food double cheeseburger  
White rice  
White bread  
Bologna or hot dogs  
Fried chicken  
Mayonnaise  
Canned fruit in heavy syrup  
Potato chips  
Ice cream  
Sweetened cereals  
White flour tortillas  
Milk shake  
Vegetables cooked with oil

### ... EAT

⇒ Baked potato  
⇒ Whole beans  
⇒ Low-fat bran muffin  
⇒ Hamburger with lettuce/tomato  
⇒ Brown rice  
⇒ Whole grain bread  
⇒ Broiled or roasted pork or beef  
⇒ Broiled or baked chicken  
⇒ Mustard  
⇒ Fresh fruit  
⇒ Crackers or air-popped popcorn  
⇒ Fruit sherbet  
⇒ Unsweetened whole grain cereals  
⇒ Corn tortillas  
⇒ Fruit smoothie  
⇒ Steamed vegetables



## 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. 3rd & 4th week - every day
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30	1st, 3rd, 4th wk - Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 2nd wk - Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Smithville	580-244-3289	8:45-3:45	2nd Thursday
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Monday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Every Tuesday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Thursday

## Caney Coach Pitch Tournament

May 20 and 21

Must be signed up by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Entry fee is \$50.00 per team.

Tournament will follow the OK Kids Rules.

No one goes home empty-handed!

Please contact Mandy Armstrong at (580) 889-2902 (home) or (580) 271-1758 or Michale Nutter at (580) 239-2944.

## Children's Mental Health Month

By Jeremy Bull  
CARES Project  
Communications/Media Specialist

According to the President's New Freedom Commission Report on Mental Health, 5 to 9 percent of children in the United States have mental health needs, but only about half are getting the help they require. The report also states that one in five children and adolescents will experience a mental health concern at some time before reaching 18 years of age. Because of these staggering figures, May has been declared as "Children's Mental Health Month."

A child's mental health and its development are just as, if not more, important as a child's physical health and development. The problem is, many times a child's mental health is left unchecked, often times from fear of the stigma and labeling of being a mental health patient. The fact is, one in five Americans (youth and adults) will experience a mental health problem at some point within the span of their lifetime.

Just as disheartening as it is to see a child suffer from cancer or diabetes, it is more concerning to see children and adolescents suffer from a mental health disorder or illness and be afraid to seek out treatment options. Like cancer and diabetes, there is treatment that is available to a person who is experiencing mental health issues. The shame is not in being treated for mental health concern, but rather in society's blind eye to the growing need for help among our Nation's youth.

A mental health disorder, such as ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) or bi-polar, is a manageable diagnosis if identified and treated accordingly. Like any other health disorder, such as heart disease or cancer, mental health issues are better treated if identified early and doctor's orders are followed. If you notice a change in your child's behavioral patterns for an extended period of time, it is recommended that you seek treatment for your child, as this could be a sign of a more serious mental health concern.

On May 8, Choctaw Nation CARES Project joined more than 60 other communities from 40 states in a national "summit day" to help raise awareness of Children's Mental Health Issues. As part of National Hospital Week, May 8-12, Choctaw Nation CARES Project will coordinate with other programs within the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority to raise awareness of current mental health issues facing Native American youth today. During this week, Choctaw Nation CARES Project employees will be seen throughout the Choctaw Nation distributing information to various health and civic organizations to help identify children and youth experiencing mental health concerns.

If you feel your child is suffering from any type of mental health issue, please feel free to call the CARES Project Office at (918)-567-4128.

# Lawrence



LeFlores family members Cassie, 7, and Victoria, 1 1/2, and their Aunt Kim enjoy the Choctaw gathering in Lawrence.



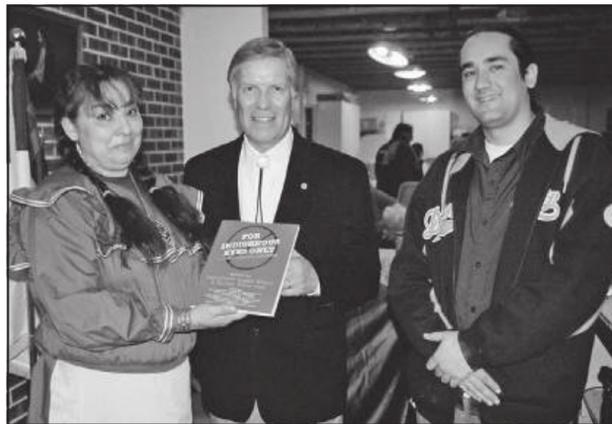
Chief Gregory E. Pyle tells the Rev. Julianne Judd how much the tribe appreciates being invited to Lawrence.



Gary Batton, the tribe's Executive Director of Health, visits with Jim LeFlores during the meeting.



Six-month-old Taloa Lena Patterson and mom, Caroline, model a Choctaw bib.



Connie Hudson and Jason Lewis present Chief Pyle with the book, "For Indegenous Eyes Only," by Michael Yellowhawk.



Katharine and husband Robert are among the first to arrive at the Lawrence Indian United Methodist Church for the Choctaw community gathering.



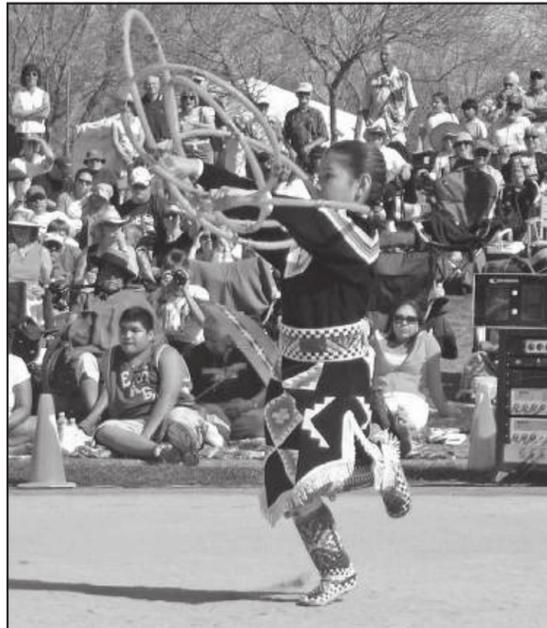
John Calloway, wife Jana and granddaughter Sadie Kan are pictured with Chief Pyle. John has helped with research on Code Talkers.



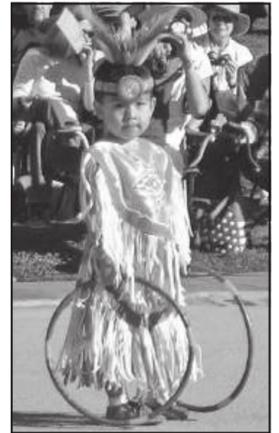
## Young Choctaws travel to World Championship Hoop Dance Competition



Peanutt Roberts



Oke-Tw'sha Roberts



Muh-Juhtheen Roberts

Peanutt, Oke-Tw'sha and Muh-Juhtheen Roberts are members of the Choctaw Nation and reside in Atwood, Oklahoma, with their parents, Dale and Rowena Roberts.

They travelled to Phoenix, Arizona, in February to take part in the World Champion Hoop Dance Competition.

Muh-Juhtheen, 3, competed in the tiny tots division and has been competing for the last two years.

This was the first for Oke-Tw'sha, 7, to compete in the youth division, but she has also been taking part in competition since she was one year old.

Peanutt, 12, won second place for 2006 in the youth division. He has competed against 30+ dancers throughout the United States and Canada and has been competing for the last six years. He won third for the years 2002-2003 and in 2004 he won the World Championship title. He came in second in 2005.

Peanutt and his sister and little brother have been representing the Choctaw Nation at this event and would like to say a big "Thank You" to the Choctaw for all their help and support.

### District Princess Pageants

#### DISTRICT 4

The Choctaw Nation District 4 Princess Pageant will be held at 4 p.m. May 13 at the Dale Cox Community Center behind the Rubin White Health Clinic in the Poteau Industrial Park. The winner of the Senior Division will receive \$500 from the Choctaw Nation, \$100 and a beaded crown from Councilman Delton Cox, and a \$2,000 scholarship to Carl Albert State College. The Choctaw Nation will give both the winners of the Junior Division and the Little Miss Division \$250 each. Other prizes will be given by Councilman Cox.

For applications and further information, contact Edna Perry at 918-647-9324; Carolyn Cagle at 918-647-9324; or Deloris Cox at 918-436-1884.

#### DISTRICT 9

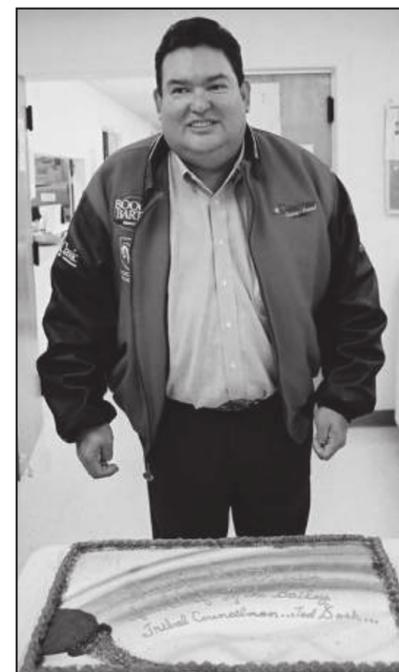
The District 9 Princess Pageant will be held at 5 p.m. Friday, June 2, on the Courthouse Lawn during the Magnolia Festival in Durant.

Females within the ages of 8 to 23, single with no dependents, and at least 1/16 Choctaw can call Kay Jackson or Martha Polk at 1-800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2504 or 2326, for applications.



### Durant center celebrates birthdays

District 9 senior citizens celebrated March birthdays at the Durant Center. Among the honorees were Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, pictured, and Councilman Ted Dosh who was unable to attend. A special birthday cake and door prizes were enjoyed. Durant Day Care seniors also made a special appearance to sing "Happy Birthday."



### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

#### June 1

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

#### June 2

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

#### June 5

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

#### June 6

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

#### June 8

Warehouses open

#### June 28

Last day for warehouses

#### June 29-30

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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## EVENTS

### Monthly Singing

Everyone is welcome to attend the Monthly Singing at River of Life Baptist Mission on the first Saturday of every month. Supper will be at 5:30 p.m. followed by the singing at 7 p.m. The River of Life Baptist Mission is located near the cemetery in Hochatown, nine miles north of Broken Bow. For more information call Lee Battiest at 580-494-6204.

### Moore Family Reunion

The third annual reunion for descendants of Joseph G. Moore will be held May 20 at the First Baptist Church in Little City, Oklahoma. It is a potluck affair and be sure to bring your old photos, documents, and cameras. It will begin at 8 a.m. For more information contact Ron D. Moore, 808 E. Cedar St., Nocona, TX 76255; 940-825-4046 or 940-736-8565.

### Gospel Singing Anniversary Celebration

Indian Nations Ministries Inc. would like to welcome you to a Gospel Singing Anniversary Celebration on May 20 to celebrate the church's first anniversary at 416 E. Kentucky in Anadarko. Everyone is welcome. Bring your music and instruments and lift up the name of Jesus. They will also be holding an Indian Taco Sale. General and tribal singing starts at 6 p.m. with gospel singing groups following at 7 p.m. Anthony Williamson and Mike Watkins are emcees. For information call 405-605-4125 or 314-6042.

### Carter Seminary/Bloomfield Reunion

30th annual Carter Seminary/Bloomfield Reunion will be held May 20 at the Chickasaw Nation Senior site in Ardmore, Oklahoma. If you have ever attended Carter Seminary in the past, please come! Bring your family, significant other, or just yourself. Contact Linda Roberts at 405-387-3958 or 405-255-7793.

### Johnico Family Annual Potluck Luncheon

The Johnico family is holding its annual potluck luncheon from 1 to 5 p.m. on May 21 at the Richard Harder Senior Citizen Building, 712 Railroad St., Talihina, Oklahoma. Theme this year is "wild things" – wild onions, wild domino games, etc. Please bring potluck dish, drinks, dessert. Contact person: Myrtle King, 305-634-6786, 1023 S.W. 38th St. Apt. C, Oklahoma City, OK 73109.

### Talihina School Reunion

Kicking off the Talihina School Reunion this year will be a dedication ceremony in the new gym honoring Mr. Henson, as he will be retiring this year. The event is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, May 26. Registration and breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. and continue until 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 27, at the school cafeteria.

The Memorial Day Parade will be 1 p.m. Saturday, May 27. The theme this year is "Stroll Down Memory Lane." A banquet will be held that afternoon at the school with a comedy show, "Greater Tuna," following.

Wrapping up the evening will be a dance in the school parking lot.

Please pre-register by calling Terry Transue at 918-567-4040 or Jackie England at 918-567-2285 between the hours of 9 and 5 Monday through Friday. Registration is \$20 per person.

### 34th Annual Gospel Singing

Buffalo Presbyterian Church is holding its 34th Annual Gospel Singing on May 27. Supper is at 5:30 p.m. and the singing will begin at 7 p.m. The church is located seven miles southeast of Smithville. Follow the signs. Emcee is the Rev. Mel Gaines, Dallas. Class singers, specials and listeners are all welcome. Come enjoy the singing and fellowship with us.

### Memorial Weekend Gospel Singing

Mitchell Memorial United Methodist Church, 221 W. 7th in Ada, is hosting a Memorial Weekend Singing on May 28. Singing starts at 7 p.m. Truman Jefferson will be emcee. Food sale begins at 5:30 p.m. The church invites everyone to come out and enjoy a good night of gospel singing.

### Chilocco Alumni Association Reunion

The 2006 Chilocco National Alumni Association Reunion will be held June 8, 9, 10 and 11 at the Radisson Hotel (formerly Sheraton), 10918 E. 41st St., Tulsa, Oklahoma. For reservations, call 918-627-5000. Host and planning: Tsa-La-Gi Chapter, Tahlequah. Planning director: Jim Edwards, 918-742-1549.

### All Nations Native American Bowling Tourney

The 4th Annual All Nations Native American Bowling Tournament will be held June 10-11 at Holiday Lanes, 44 S.E. 44th, Oklahoma City. Host hotel for the event is Quality Inn SW, 7800 C.A. Henderson Blvd., I-240 and S. Western, 405-632-6666 or 800-843-4241. Mention the All Nations Bowling Tournament for a special room rate. For more information contact Alma Johnson, 405-275-5466 or OKCBowl2006@aol.com.

### Elder's Day Celebration

The Painted Horse War Dance Society Elder's Day Celebration is June 16 and 17 at the Indian Territory Cultural Center, one and one-half miles south of Hwy. 60 on Hwy. 10 to Grove, Oklahoma. Honorees are Chief Leaford Bearskin, Jess McKibben, Marie Dixon, Jack King, Anita Valliere and Evelyn Bellmyer. Friday: 5 p.m. supper; 6-7 p.m. gourd dance; 8 p.m. stomp dance. Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. NDN basketball, single elimination NDN football, Cherokee marbles, hand games; 2-4 p.m. gourd dance; 4:30 p.m. NDN wedding; 5:30-6:30 dinner; 7-8 p.m. gourd dance; 8 p.m. war dance. Contest dancing winner takes all: Men; Women; Tiny Tots; Teens; Stomp Dance Contest (four songs each leader). All drums welcome. Camping available, arts and crafts, 50/50, cake walk and more. For more information, please call Leonard Smith at 918-542-9970, Nathan Winship at 417-782-3757 or Jack King at 918-678-2987.

### Gibson-Pope Reunion

The annual Gibson-Pope family reunion will be held on June 17 at the Choctaw Community Center, 1632 George Nigh Expressway in McAlester. All relatives and friends are invited to get together for a wonderful day of fellowship and good food. For more information call Clara Blevins at 918-423-4766.



Magda Meely, a guest of Eric Gibson, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Alisha Picone and her guest, Sherry Picone, enjoy a dinner held at Jones Academy in March.



Ashley, Jessica and Stephen Sampson are pictured with Sue Davis.



Angelina Ibarra and Lana Johnson are pictured with Chief Pyle at Jones Academy. The girls serve as mentors to the younger students.



Alexandria Picone serves Kool Aid to Marty Watkins. Both are sixth grade students at Jones Academy.

## Jones Academy

Continued from Page 1

"This project has been in the plans for many years," said Assistant Chief Mike Bailey. "It has been said that 'How high you climb depends on how deeply you care'. The Chief and Council have proven they care deeply. They have invested millions of dollars in education."

Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey each spoke of many trips and calls to BIA offices in Washington, D.C. and Albuquerque to access funds to improve Jones Academy. "It is nice to have friends in those offices when we have had to do battle on behalf of the children here at Jones Academy," said Chief Pyle. "We are also very thankful for the generous donations from individuals that have made it possible to improve the educational opportunities for tribal students."

Assistant Chief Bailey said, "We simply believe it is our responsibility to educate our children and provide the best for them that we can."

"The Choctaw Nation appreciates the Tribal Council for passing legislation unanimously to allocate more than \$7 million dollars from gaming revenue to construct this facility for the students," said Chief Pyle.

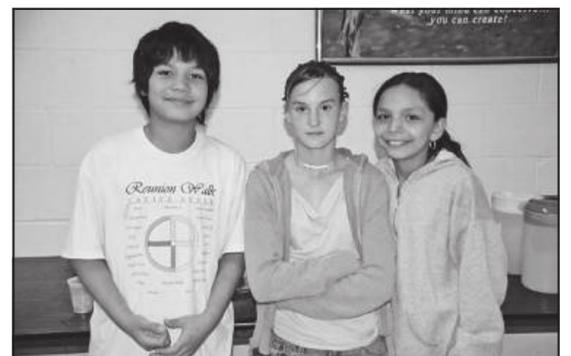
Chickasaw Governor Bill Anoatubby joined the Choctaws for the celebration. "With great leaders like the Choctaws have, you are able to develop a plan, work the plan and see it come to reality," said Governor Anoatubby. "Education is the cornerstone of our future. I commend the tribe for the things I see happening in the fields of health and economic development. Congratulations for the kids – this is what it is all about."



Melissa Buffalomeat, Shaylin Whitebuffalo and Delanie Lime enjoyed a recent banquet at Jones Academy.



Assigned the task of serving salads were Eric Gibson, Marty Watkins and Lana Johnson.



Bennie Simpson, Ashley Lawrence and Neosha Kauley.

## OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance

5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City

One block west of Penn. Ave. between S.W. 51st and S.W. 55th

### Gospel Singing & Indian Taco Sale

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance is holding a Mid-Summer Gospel Singing on June 10.

An Indian Taco Sale will kick the day off from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Concessions will open at 5 p.m. General and tribal singing begins at 6 and gospel singing groups at 7 p.m.

Everyone is welcome! Come lift up the name of Jesus. Bring your instruments. Emceeing will be Mike Watkins and Anthony Williamson.

For more information call 405-314-6042 or 405-605-4125.

### Are you a Native American Veteran and needing assistance with claims and/or applications?



#### Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a member of a federally recognized tribe
- Be a veteran

#### The program assists with:

- VA claims
- Applications
- Referrals
- Other services as requested

### Choctaw Veteran's Advocacy

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Assistance Requested \_\_\_\_\_

Return Form To:  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Choctaw Veteran's Advocacy  
P.O. Drawer 1210  
Durant, OK 74702

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Choctaw Story Telling Festival

This year's festival will be June 21-24 at the McAlester Choctaw Center. Storyteller Tim Tingle and Choctaw artists will be there as well as many events such as different workshops, singing, contests and dinner with Chief Greg Pyle.

### Wednesday, June 21

**11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.:** Tim will tell stories to the Choctaw elders and the elders will share traditional tales of their heritage.

### Thursday, June 22

**10 a.m.-Noon:** Workshops for adults and elders sharing traditional tales of their heritage.

#### Lunch Break

**1-3 p.m.:** Sessions

**6:30 p.m.:** Dinner honoring Chief Gregory E. Pyle with stories by Tim Tingle

### Friday, June 23

**10:00 a.m.-Noon:** Workshops for children and adults wanting to learn how to share their culture in story telling.

**2-4:00 p.m.:** Sessions

**4-6 p.m.:** Supper Break

**6-9 p.m.:** Traditional Choctaw Singing, M.C. Tribal Councilman Joe Coley

**9-10 p.m.:** Gospel Singing

### Saturday, June 24

**9 a.m.-4 p.m.** Story Telling by Tim Tingle and other Choctaw artists

Hour intervals and 15-minute breaks

**Cultural Demonstrations:** crafts, music, flute playing, drumming, blow gun, tradition dress, Choctaw songs, bow and arrow, inter-tribal dancing, art/crafts and traditional food. There is a \$15 dollar set-up fee for arts and crafts space.

**10 a.m.: Blow Gun Contest:** 7-12 years; 13-17 years; 18 years and up

**11 a.m.: Archery Contest:** 3-6 years; 7-12 years; 13-15 years; adults; Registration 9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Call to pre-register.

## Welcome home!

It's an honor to "Welcome Home" from Baghdad Iraq, Spec. John Robert French, who has been serving our country this past year. He has been in the U.S. Army since 2004. He is training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, and is stationed at Ft. Stewart, Georgia. John will soon be a sergeant where he'll finish his duties at Ft. Stewart.



John is the daddy of Andy French and the son of Elizabeth Ann Tonihka McKinney and Cyrus McKinney of Oklahoma City and Gary French of Orlando, Florida. Grandparents are the late Wilson and Bertha Ward Tonihka and the late Clyde and Nona French. John's great-grandmother is the late Lena Bohanon Hicks.

## French completes training

Congratulations to Sheriff Deputy Gary Don French. Gary Don finished all of his training on November 18. He began his duties with his own patrol car on November 20. He started out at Lake County as a jailer in 2004. He has accomplished a lot and everyone is very proud of him. French lives in Tavares, Florida, with his wife, Sarah (Santiago) French and his two children, Madalyn and Coen.



Gary Don is the son of Elizabeth Ann Tonihka McKinney and Cyrus McKinney of Oklahoma City and Gary French of Orlando, Florida. His grandparents are the late Wilson and Bertha Ward Tonihka and the late Clyde and Nona French. His great-grandmother is the late Lena Bohanon Hicks.

## Attention Trust Beneficiaries

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Minerals Management Services (MMS), Choctaw Nation Realty, and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), will be conducting an Outreach Meeting Tuesday, May 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the McAlester Community Center, 1632 S. George Nigh Expressway in McAlester. OST, BLM, MMS and BIA will be available to answer questions regarding Individual Indian Monies (IIM) accounts or other trust matters.

### Native American Veteran Warriors Society BENEFIT POW-WOW May 20

Four Winds Park  
5380 E. Hwy. 199  
Springtown, Texas  
(3 miles west of Azle, south of  
1542 intersection)

Located behind Murco Farm  
and Ranch Supply  
**2-10 p.m.**

**Gourd Dance 2-6 p.m.**

**Supper Break**

**Grand Entry 7 p.m.**

**To honor all veterans**

**of all wars**

– Head Staff –

Master of Ceremonies: Lance

Carney

Host Drum: Bear Claw

Head Gourd Dancer: Michael

McDonald

Head Man: Kent Wheeler

Head Lady: Kandace Folsom

Arena Director: Jason Laird

Honor Guard: Native American

Veteran Warriors Society

For mor einformation please

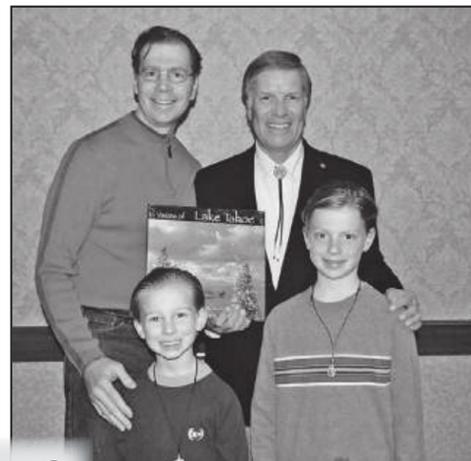
contact Eugene Folsom at

214-941-4702 or Dick Green at

817-444-2770



During a recent gathering in Sacramento, Chief Gregory E. Pyle met Mary Jane Nelson Fadely, Mary Francis Whitley and Al Fadely. Originally from Durant, the Fadely family has lived in Sonora since the '60s.



The Brewer family presented Chief Pyle with a book about Lake Tahoe. Gregory Brewer is pictured with sons Garrett, 8, and Justin, 6.

## SACRAMENTO



Nathaniel Miller, at left, helps Oneida Winship draw for prizes. Below, 2-year-old Kaleb and 3-year-old Nathaniel accompanied their mother, Naomi Miller, from Fort Bragg to Sacramento.



Jimmie Armor Eubanks has lived in Sacramento for about 40 years. Chief Pyle was delighted to meet her.



Executive Director of Health Gary Batton visits with Sandi Glaziner of Los Molinos.

# Choctaw Nation REACH 2010 Youth Fitness Camp

**Attention 8 to 12 year old boys & girls** – Are you interested in having a day of fun, games and activities while learning the importance of fitness? If so, Choctaw Nation REACH 2010 would like to invite you to participate in their free one-day camp. The camp will be held from 9:00 am to approx. 3:00 pm June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Choctaw Nation Tribal Grounds in Tuskahoma. The focus of the camp is the five components of physical fitness. The camp is limited to the first 75 registrants. A healthy lunch and snacks will be provided. For more information contact REACH 2010 at 1-800-349-7026, ext. 6044 or 6958 Mail Registration Form & Permission Form by **deadline date, May 19, 2006**, to

**Be Healthy**

Choctaw Nation REACH 2010  
One Choctaw Way  
Talihina, Ok. 74571

**Be Strong**



*Let's Get Physical*

### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Tribe(s) \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size (youth): Sm \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_ XLg \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

Does your child need transportation? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Authorization for Emergency Care to Minor:  
We the undersigned, parent(s) or legal guardian of the minor listed above do hereby authorize any emergency care required by the minor while attending the fitness camp. This includes general first aid care or transport to medical facility if required. The undersigned further agrees that Choctaw Nation will not be held liable for injuries sustained while at the camp.

Signature of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### Permission Form

**Must be signed by parent or legal guardian.**

I, hereby release the Choctaw Nation, their agents, employees, and representatives from any damages or liabilities brought in litigation by other persons or parties on behalf of participants, including, but not limited to, liability or illness, injury or accident, lost, stolen, or damaged property, or other risks that are not specifically foreseeable which may occur during my child's participation in the Fitness Camp. I give my permission for any photos taken at the camp of my child to use for Bishinik or other Choctaw Nation newsletter articles or physical activity promotion materials.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies or medical problems of minor \_\_\_\_\_

## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
J U N E	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
						Idabel 10 am-2 pm	3
	4	5 Antlers by appt only	6 Stigler by appt only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	7 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	8	9 Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm	10
	11	12 Durant 10 am-2 pm	13	14 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	15	16 Poteau 11:30 am- 1 pm	17
	18	19	20 Crowder and McAlester by appt only	21 Wright City by appt only	22	23 Bethel by appt only	24
2 0 0 6	25	26 Durant by appt only	27 Wilburton 10:30 am- 2 pm	28	29	30	

## OBITUARIES

### Elizabeth Thompson

Elizabeth Thompson, 82, of Marlow passed away April 2, 2006, in Duncan. She was born June 7, 1923, in Marlow to Amos and Belle Joshua York.

Elizabeth attended Witlock Catholic School. She lived in Marlow all of her life. She was the last survivor of the Belle York children. She married Wilburn Thompson on September 6, 1949, in Sulphur. She retired as a clean tech from Haliburton. She loved to sing and go to church gospel singings. Elizabeth loved spending time with her family and was a great listener to her nieces and nephews. She also took time to make sure all of her children were clean and well-kept. She enjoyed making quilts and watching her children play sports. Elizabeth was a member of the St. York Indian Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband; daughter, Anabell Stiger; great-grandson, Abraham Hernandez; great-granddaughter, Lindsey Whitestar; parents; two brothers, Charley York and Issac York; four sisters, Mina Pellieman, Lizzie Cooper, Louise Collum and Maggie Sweeney.

Survivors include four sons, Elmer Lee Thompson and wife, Carolyn, of Gladwater, Texas, Wilburn "Junior" Thompson Jr. and wife, Diana, of Duncan and Donald Thompson and wife, Marcella, all of Duncan, and Ronald Thompson and wife, Kathy, of Chickasha; four daughters, Myra Lucille Harjo and husband, Wayne, of Tulsa, Tiawanna Sue England and husband, Gary, of Lawton, Jeannie Dilbeck and husband, Chris, of Wichita Falls, Texas, and Sally Jo Gibson of Marlow; 27 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, seven great-great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews.

### George Billy

George Billy, 62, passed away March 20, 2006, in Springer, New Mexico. He was born November 11, 1943, in Finley, Oklahoma, to Ruth Billy, to whom he was devoted, and Elliston Billy, from whom he was proud to have received his Choctaw heritage.

George came to New Mexico at a very young age, growing up in Cimarron and later in Springer. He worked as a heavy equipment mechanic for most of his life throughout the western states.

He was preceded in death by his mother; an aunt, Tommie Flowers Lopez; brothers, Carol Joe Billy, Elton Billy and Gene Billy; and sisters, Evelyn Billy and Carol Martinez Billy.

Survivors include two aunts, Winnie Boggs and Martha Flowers of California; special uncle, Joe Lopez of Albuquerque, who helped in the upbringing of George and his brothers and sisters and thought of them as if they were his own children; half-sister, Carrier Billy West and husband, Don, of Capitan; brother-in-law, Gene Martinez of Lakewood, Colorado; niece, Dana Martinez Parker and husband, Mike, of St. Petersburg, Florida; nephew, Craig Martinez, daughter, Monica of Denver; sister-in-law, Gloria Billy, daughter, Megan of Santa Rosa; nephew, Randy Hager and wife, Marie, sons, Jacob and Seth, and nephew, William "Wedo" Hager, all of Avondale, Arizona; his caring neighbor and friend, Juanita Madrid of Springer; and numerous cousins and friends in Oklahoma.

### Edmond Henry Spring

Edmond Henry Spring, 81, passed away January 14, 2006, in Santa Ana, California. He was born December 23, 1924, in Stringtown, Oklahoma, the son of Willie E. Spring and Lola Blair Spring.

He was a retired teamster for a sand and gravel company in California. He loved high school wrestling and was instrumental in establishing the wrestling program at Brea-Olinda High School in Brea, California, in the 1960s.

In recent years, the school honored him by creating a scholarship in his name. A wrestling meet was also established in his name, The Ed Spring Invitational Meet. He was proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Marguerite Spring; his parents; a brother, W.E. Spring; a sister, Leola Spring Cameron; and his grandmother, Katie Impson.

Survivors include his son, Edward Henry Spring Jr. and wife, JoNell, of Eugene, Oregon; daughters, Danese Spring Gresch and husband, Gary, of Fullerton, California; Stacy Spring Wilson and husband, Milo, of Brea; brother, Stephen Spring and wife, Shirley, of Camano Island, Washington, and Stringtown, Oklahoma; 10 grandchildren, Jason, Tully and Lani Spring, Erin, Ryan, Sean, Sharon and Katherine Gresch and Tony and Kylie Grace Wilson.

He asked so little and gave so much. We will miss him very much.

### Virginia W. Brown

Virginia W. Brown, 91, of McAlester passed away March 22, 2006, at a local nursing center. Born February 4, 1915, in Wilburton, she was the daughter of Stuard and Winnie Wall Patterson. She grew up in Wilburton until the age of 11 when her mother passed away.

She then continued her education at the Chilocco Indian School in northern Oklahoma, where she graduated valedictorian of her class.

She married James Edward Brown on October 5, 1935, in McAlester. They moved to California in 1943 and lived there for 30 years. They moved to Blanco in 1972 where they lived for 30 years. They then moved to McAlester in 2002.

Mrs. Brown was a member of the First Baptist Church of McAlester.

She was preceded in death by her husband on May 31, 2003, and her parents.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Winnie and Donald Cooke of McAlester; son and daughter-in-law, Davis and Sandy Brown of Santa Clarita, California; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; three sisters, Lorene Dorsey of Oklahoma City, Dorothy Spears of Hartshome and Pauline Schofield of McAlester; and numerous nieces and nephews.

### Margie L. Price

Margie L. Price, 82, of Amarillo, Texas, passed away March 24, 2006. She was the youngest of 13 children and was raised in Foster, Oklahoma. She married the love of her life, T.J. Price, on September 18, 1939.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents, Walter Thomas Gibson and Laura Hale Gibson; and a son, Tommy Gene Price.

Survivors include a daughter, Wilma Jean Barbee of Memphis; a sister, Ruby Snodgrass of Pauls Valley; eight grandchildren, Dawn Robinson and husband, Vance, Sequin Sena and husband, Steve, Clint Price, Donna Price and Peggy Dale Nail and husband, Larry, all of Amarillo, Denise Howard and husband, Nathan, of Purcell, Sonia Berry and husband, Stephen, of Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, and Thomas Barbee of Memphis; 16 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.



### Mary Mae Tisho

Mary Mae Tisho, 79, of Broken Bow passed away December 19, 2005, at McCurtain Memorial Hospital, Idabel. She was born May 15, 1926, in Mt. Herman, Oklahoma, the daughter of Isaac and Lottie John Winship.

Mary was affiliated with Tohwali Methodist Church at Oak Hill. She enjoyed watching her grandchildren play sports and working in her yard. Mary also loved spending time with her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, John Dale Tisho; eight brothers and three sisters.

Survivors include her husband, Newman Tisho Sr. of Broken Bow; six sons, Kenneth Tisho and wife, Sue, of Shawnee, Newman "Buck" Tisho Jr., Wendell "Wayne" Tisho, Lambert "Rusty" Tisho, Isaac "Wes" Tisho and Rico Tisho, all of Broken Bow; two daughters, Jeanetta Jackson and husband, Richard, and Kathy Thies, all of Broken Bow; 17 grandchildren, Robbie, Allen, Crystal, Jim, Steven, Jay, Kyle, Kisha, Jerrod, R.J., Arlin, and Ike Tisho, Shawna Wall, Candace Jackson, J.R., Kayla, and Lindsey Thies; 24 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

### Dennis Dewayne Wilson

Dennis Dewayne Wilson passed away January 8, 2006. He was born February 10, 1971, in Tulsa to Dennis Kimbrel Wilson and Carol Ann Young.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Rhuel and Pauline Wilson of Sapulpa and Joe and Louise Arron of Irving, Texas, and a brother, Christopher Brian Dean.

Survivors include his daughter, Chelsea McKayla Wilson; siblings, Tammi Wilson Hulsey and husband, Stephanie Knighten Roberts and husband, and Kimberly and Stacy Villalpando; nephews, Gordon Hulsey and Dakota Roberts; and nieces, Jesse and Ashley Hulsey and Brittany Roberts.

Dewayne loved life and lived life to the fullest. He has many loving friends, including Rick and Teri Jewell and their children, all of Sapulpa; lifelong friend, Kenny Weaver; Robyn Wilson and many more. Dewayne will be greatly missed.

### Daniel 'Redman' Wayne Webster

Daniel "Redman" Wayne Webster, 48, of Powderly, Texas, passed away March 16, 2006, at Paris, Texas. He was born August 10, 1957, in Talihina, the son of Daniel and Anita Nelson Webster.

He grew up in the Sawyer community but lived in Powderly for over 25 years. He married Karen Lechlitter on June 6, 1980, in Valliant. He was the owner operator of the "Redman Express." He enjoyed being with his children and grandchildren. He liked to fish and was a hard worker. He lived life to its fullest and will be truly missed by his family and all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife of the home; one son, Daniel Jonathon Webster of Powderly; two daughters, Tanja Forbes and husband, Jack, of Cartwright and Tiffany Parish of Powderly; three sisters, Tisha Reece of Fort Towson, Barbara Ford of Morrisville, Missouri, and Gail Rose of Denison, Texas; one brother, Charlie Webster of Morrisville; two grandchildren, Jadan Forbes and Austin Parish; along with a host of other friends and family.

### Hagar Hatama Betts Pettigrew

Hagar Hatama Betts Pettigrew, 95, passed away peacefully at home on October 25, 2005. Born August 6, 1910, to David Clinton Betts and Emma Virginia Baxter Betts on the family's Choctaw land allotment in what is now Atoka, Oklahoma, she was the seventh of nine children.

Hagar married her sweetheart, Dewey Lee Pettigrew, and they met life's challenges and shared its joys for nearly 72 years prior to his death in July 1998. One very difficult experience was the death of their firstborn, Anna Lou, due to childhood illness. Having lost one child already, it was not easy to send their oldest son to fight in Korea and their youngest to fight in Vietnam. The couple retired to Orem in 1970 to be near their children, and Hagar pursued her favorite pastime, growing beautiful flowers in her well-kept yard. She won the Orem Yard Beautification Award on three different occasions. She often said that she could feel God's presence as she worked in her gardens. During the winter months, Hagar crocheted beautiful doilies and afghans, decorating her own home and making gifts for family members.

But her life was not always so domestic. In 1942, the family moved to Claypool, Arizona, and for much of World War II, she assisted in the war effort by operating an overhead power lifting crane in the copper mines there. In addition, Hagar was naturally intelligent. Though her formal education was limited, she kept current on world affairs and faithfully exercised her right to vote. She was also savvy about finances. Another of her talents was cooking. She had specialties that were favorites. Much of her day was spent either planning or cooking meals, and she took great pleasure in feeding her family, often indulging special requests (like tostados!).

All her talents, however, cannot compare to the love and care she showered on her family. She was a devoted mother in every way. Hagar leaves behind many who love her and will miss her.

Survivors include children and their spouses, Billie Sue and Roy Cantrell of Tucson, Arizona, Dewey Edward and Ann Pettigrew and Ellis Dwayne and Maribeth Pettigrew, all of Orem; sister, Juanita Betts Melvin of Fair Play, Missouri; 14 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren and 17 great-great-grandchildren.

### Bobby Carroll

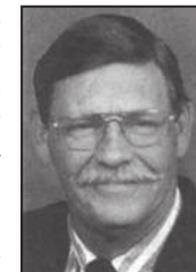
Bobby Carroll, 57, passed away March 15, 2006. He was born April 28, 1948, in Wellington, Texas, and was raised in Memphis. He was a 1967 graduate of Memphis High School. He married Sue Butzen in 1987 in Amarillo.

Bobby was a resident of Amarillo for more than 20 years. He was a master barber. He also worked for the Globe-News before going to work for Nationwide Insurance Co. He was a member of Kingswood United Methodist Church.

Bobby was an avid golfer and loved to spend time with his grandchildren. He touched many lives, and lived his own to the fullest. He never met a stranger.

He was preceded in death by his father, Leonard Carroll, in 1994.

Survivors include his wife of Amarillo; two sons, Robert Carroll of Amarillo and Jason Carroll of Fort Hood; two daughters, Lauri Smith and Sarah Carroll, both of Amarillo; his mother, Clara Carroll of Memphis; four brothers, James Carroll of Childress, Texas, Paul Carroll of Memphis, Charles Carroll of Lubbock and Donnie Carroll of Rowlett; two sisters, Glenda Cook of Mesquite and Charlotte Schacher of Tulsa; and eight grandchildren, Casey, Cameron, Cassidy, Kambri, Jade, Stratton, Brittany and Misti.



### Terry James Westmoreland

Terry James Westmoreland, 23, of Boswell passed away April 6, 2006, at Boswell. He was born November 20, 1982, in Talihina, the son of Jack and Theresa Pistubbee Westmoreland and had lived in Boswell all of his life.

Terry enjoyed fishing, hunting, watching movies, and liked riding horses. He was a good worker. He enjoyed his family and always had a smile on his face. He graduated from Boswell High School.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, J.D. Westmoreland and "Levy" Lucille McClure Westmoreland and Lewis Hampton.

Survivors include his parents of Boswell; grandparents, Raymond and Edith Pistubbee of Boswell and Dora Hampton of Soper; three brothers, Jack David Westmoreland, Stanton Westmoreland and Brandon Westmoreland, all of Boswell; three sisters, Wendy Brown of Boswell, Tina Hawkins of Marietta and Tiffany Westmoreland of Boswell; six aunts, Judy Hadley, Twilah Hampton, Lisa Hampton, Doretha Barrett, Patricia Hampton and Priscilla Acune; nine uncles, James Westmoreland, J.D. Westmoreland, Mannon Westmoreland, Tony Amadon, Darrell Pistubbee, Lorn Hampton, Arnold Pistubbee, Joe Pistubbee and John Hampton; along with a host of other relatives and friends.

### Louella 'Ann' Fobb

Louella "Ann" Fobb, 59, of Frederick, Oklahoma, passed away April 5, 2006, in Oklahoma City. She was born on February 8, 1947, in Watson to Jefferson Gardner and Lorance Leflore Hicks.

She came to Frederick in 1953, from Watson. She attended Weaver and Frederick schools. She married Houston Fobb on September 14, 1974, in Cove, Arkansas. She worked at Betsy Bra, Schlegel and Metzler, as a production worker from 1963 to May of 2005. She was a member of the Apostolic Faith Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband on September 5, 2000; son, Adam Roy Hicks Leyja; brother, Joe Ray Hicks Sr.; and two sisters, Pearlene Osborn and Joella Ruth Saenz.

Survivors include a son, Galen Dean Hicks; daughter, Lori Dawn Hicks Perez and husband, Braulio, of Frederick; brother, Eddie Joel Hicks; sister, Vera Hudson and husband, Cordell, of Frederick; nine grandchildren, Andrew Perez, Carlos Perez, Christopher Hicks, Ashlyn Hicks, BreAnna Hicks, Jayden Hicks, Kristen Leyja, Hailey Leyja, and Delaney Leyja; one great-grandchild, Ryan Leyja; and her Boston Terrier dog companion, Sixtus Bisol.

### Barbara Bivins Green

Barbara Bivins Green passed away March 16, 2006, in Ashdown, Arkansas, after a lengthy illness. She was born August 12, 1944, in Mesa, Arizona, to Dorothy McCown Bivins and Robert Peyton Bivins.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jimmy Carroll Green, in 1977; father in 1966; mother in 1981; and one sister, Joyce Sue Bivins in 1968.

Survivors include daughters and sons-in-law, Sherry and James Stein of Winthrop, Arkansas, Angela and David Carver and Brenda Overturf of Foreman, Arkansas, and Rebecca and Charles Dean of Fort Smith, Arkansas; one son, James Green of Cap Gerarda, Missouri; nine grandchildren; one great-grandchild; sisters and sons-in-law, Dorothy and Tommy Boyd, Jackie and Donald Myers and Patricia Bivins, all of Bakersfield, California, and Betty and Donald Green of Foreman; a brother, Robert Peyton Bivins and wife, Connie, of Kemmerer, Wyoming; and a number of nieces and nephews.

She will be greatly missed by all.

### Donovan Ray Airington

Donovan Ray Airington, 27, passed away November 3, 2005. He was born December 9, 1977.

He was a great son, brother, uncle and a good man. We will all miss him but know he is in Heaven now.

Survivors include his mother, Jennie Airington of Oklahoma City, and his father and stepmother, Ernest and Wilma Airington of Oklahoma; sister, Michelle Daugherty of Oklahoma City; a nephew, Kyler and two nieces, Raquel and Cheyenne Daugherty of Oklahoma City; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and step-family from all over the United States.

### Bennie Lee James

Bennie Lee James, 71, of Talihina passed away March 23, 2006, at Eastern Oklahoma Medical Center, Poteau. He was born August 15, 1934, in Calhoun, Oklahoma, the son of Lester James and Annie Marris James.

He married Hilda Marie Monroe on March 1, 1956, in Los Angeles, California. Mr. James was a steel worker and a member of Greenhill Baptist Church, Talihina. He enjoyed reading his Bible and he loved attending Gospel singings.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; two daughters, Bennie Jo and Daphne Lorene; four sisters, Flora Mae, Ester, Christine and Starla.

Survivors include daughter and son-in-law, Janice Marie and Kevin Twist of McAlester; sons and daughters-in-law, Michael Monroe and Lisa James of Red Oak, Russell James of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Corey Lee and Brenda James of Talihina, and Bennie Keith and April James of Red Oak; brothers and sisters-in-law, Alan Adam and Eastel James of Panama and Leslie Roy and Geraldine James of Poteau; sisters and brother-in-law, Mary Correne Kelly of Poteau and Linda and Don Maxwell of Wister; 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and many friends.

### Johnny Franklin James

Johnny Franklin James, 52, of Hugo passed away March 12, 2006, at his home. He was born June 13, 1953, in Hugo, the son of Benjamin and Esterline Colbert James. He lived in the Hugo community all of his life.

He married Terrie Scogins in 1971 in Paris, Texas. A heavy equipment operator, he worked for the City of Hugo for 24 years. He liked hunting, fishing, pitching horseshoes, playing the drums, and BBQ. He loved to spend time with his children and grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his father-in-law, the Rev. C.C. Scogins.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Johnny Lynn James and wife, Kristi, of Hugo and Charles James and wife, Victoria, of Hugo; two daughters, Quanah Smith and husband, Randall, of Tulsa and Tajana Hobgood and husband, Chad, of Boswell; his mother-in-law, Martha Scogins of Hugo; two brothers, Timothy James and Robert Chubbee, both of Hugo; four sisters, Theda Lamb and Aline McClure, both of Hugo, Lucy Pride of Talihina and Sandra Brittinn of Soper; 16 grandchildren, Amanda, Canyon, Paul, Troy, Brittain, Crystal, Shadow, Hawk, Summer, Cory, Brian, Brandon, Courtney, Geoffrey, Garry, and Colton; along with a host of other friends and relatives.

