



STATE OF THE NATION

Helping Our People Excel

Chief Gregory E. Pyle welcomed the crowd to the Tribal Capitol for the annual celebration during the Labor Day weekend. “It is wonderful to see so many people here who are interested in the State of the Choctaw Nation, and I am happy to report to you that the State of our Nation is great – better than it has ever been in our entire history!”

The Chief said, “The Choctaw Nation is continuously working to make sure there is HOPE for our future. At a time when the United States government is providing fewer and fewer services for our children, the Choctaw Nation is securing funding and developing specific programs to ensure the next generations have HOPE and pride to carry on.

“The Choctaw Language program has had phenomenal growth! The language is taught in 36 public schools, five colleges and almost 40 community classes. We have certified teachers in classrooms, colleges and communities. Internet classes have students as far away as Hong Kong, and are free of charge to anyone who wishes to learn. Choctaw is not a dying language – it is a growing language.

“Jones Academy is building a new academic building for elementary grade classrooms on campus. By having our own school on campus, we are giving the children the best teachers, best books and best education possible. The school is going to cost about ten million dollars - 100 percent of it will be will be constructed with funds from tribal businesses.

“The Choctaw Nation offers the best in rural health care in Oklahoma. The tribe has entered into an agreement with OU to provide a state-of-the-art-Oklahoma Diabetes Center. Currently, the Choctaw

Nation offers health services that include a hospital and a Diabetes Wellness Center in Tali hina, and clinics in Stigler, McAlester, Broken Bow, Hugo, Poteau and Idabel. Other health facilities include a Recovery Center for drug and alcohol abuse. We also have a treatment facility that takes in women and their children for six months at a time.

“Placing an emphasis on quality health care is vital to the success of every individual. Many of the ongoing construction projects of the tribe deal directly with health services – a new clinic that will be about twice the size of this amphitheater area is being built in McAlester, a new clinic is being built in Broken Bow, the clinic in Poteau is being enlarged and will soon include a pharmacy refill center for mail-out prescriptions, and a Choctaw clinic is being built in Atoka.

“We are fortunate to have the teamwork of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches. The Tribal Council travels daily to oversee services that are provided. The three Judges oversee the constitutional and legal matters. They meet monthly at the historical Capitol.

“The Choctaw people today have access to services so they can excel with HOPE, pride, and confidence. In my 10 years as your Chief, I have never been more proud or confident that our future is bright and filled with HOPE. You’ll have noticed I keep mentioning HOPE. Our staff define hope this way – **Helping Our People Excel**. We work to serve you and believe that it is our task to Help Our People Excel. We thank you for this honor and will continue to make HOPE a reality for the Choctaw Nation.”



Tribal Judge Burton takes oath of office

Lois Burton is sworn in by Chief Justice James Wolfe during Monday’s events at the amphitheater during the Labor Day Festival. As the newest Tribal Judge, Burton is filling the position left after the retirement of Juanita Jefferson and will be serving with Chief Justice Wolfe and Tribal Judge Mitch Mullin.



Choctaw Royalty for 2006-07

Crowned as Choctaw Royalty for the upcoming year are Jr. Miss Ashton Dinardo-Chuckluck, District 6; Sr. Miss Courtney Baker, District 8; and Little Miss Emily Rowell, District 2.

Tribal partnership appreciated



The Durant Chamber of Commerce has presented appreciation plaques to Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey as a way of saying “Thank You” for the tribe’s partnership with the local city and county governments. Officials from the city stated they particularly valued the annual Chamber fundraiser of Bingo Fun Night held at the Durant Casino. Pictured are Durant Mayor Jerry Tomlinson, First Vice President Steve Boggs, Assistant Chief Bailey, Chief Pyle, 2006 Chamber President Butch Arnett, Fran Mickle, standing in for her husband, Board Member Billy Mickle, and Chamber Director Rick Hammel.

Truck donated to Tali hina Fire Department



Choctaw Nation Specialty Transport donated this fire/rescue truck to the Tali hina Fire Department. Pictured are Wayne Vaught, Fire Chief Eddie Nelson, Chief Greg Pyle, Gary Lawrence, Assistant Fire Chief Brian Hibdon and Sheldon King.

Powwow to honor Code Talkers

The 2nd Annual Choctaw Casino & Resort Inter-Tribal Pow-Wow, scheduled November 25 in Durant, will feature a special honor for the Choctaw Code Talkers. The descendants of the Choctaw Code Talkers will be presented a U.S. Flag that has flown over the Capitol Grounds at Tushka Homma. One descendant from each of the 18 families will be chosen for the task of carrying their flag in the Grand Entry at 7 p.m.

Beginning November 1, a flag will be changed out each day at Tushka Homma (Choctaw for Red Warrior) for the first 18 days of the month. Each of the flags will be folded and brought for the presentation to the family members.

If you are a Code Taker descendant and would like information on how to be involved in the ceremony at the 2nd Annual Pow-Wow, please contact Willard Polk at 800-522-6170, ext. 2349.

Choctaw Veterans Ceremony

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



Tribal Council officers for 2006-07 are, from left, Joe Coley, Chaplain; Mike Amos, Speaker; and Charlotte Jackson, Secretary.

Tribal Council officers re-elected to another term

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council voted unanimously during their regular session in September to reinstate Council Speaker Mike Amos, Secretary Charlotte Jackson and Chaplain Joe Coley for another term. Also re-appointed were Patty Hawkins, Recording Secretary; Sylvester Moore, Sergeant-At-Arms; and Bob Rabon, Parliamentarian.

Kaye Green of Roberta was appointed as a member of the Choctaw Nation Election Board. Green has served several years on the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center Board. Her term with the Election Board will end December 31, 2009.

In new business, the 12 councilpersons passed 2007 budgets and budget amendments for Educational Talent Search, DHHS Child Care Develop-

ment Fund, Family Violence Program and Tribal Operations as well as fiscal year 2006 budget closeouts for Jones Academy Residential and Therapeutic Model.

The development of Choctaw Professional Resources Enterprise was approved. CPRE will be supervising the acquisition and management of federal procurement contracts and other commercial contracts to increase tribal revenue, better serving the social, economic, educational and health needs of the tribe.

Also approved were two rights-of-way and an application to the Federal Transit Administration for the Tribal Transit Program Grant.

The next regular session of the Tribal Council will be October 14 at Tushka Homma.

Cochnauer to share info on ancestor

Tiajuana King Cochnauer recently completed a temporary assignment with the national office of the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations in Washington, D.C. She is pictured sharing the Choctaw Nation calendar with Dale Bosworth, Chief of USDA Forest Service. Cochnauer has returned to her permanent unit in South Carolina where she is an assistant manager with the Forest Service. She is the granddaughter of original enrollees Amanda Barnett Dyer and Willie Dyer, both deceased, of Eagletown and Mary James King and Arlington (Allington) King, deceased, of Haworth.

She will be presenting “James Dyer: Choctaw Statesman before Statehood,” to the McCurtain County Genealogical Society, 7 p.m., November 14, at the Idabel Public Library. The program is open to the public.



State of Alabama awards Choctaw Nation

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal from Governor Bob Riley of the State of Alabama. The tribe’s NAGPRA Director, Terry Cole, accepted the award for distinguished service in supporting Alabama National Guard Native American Consultation.

Cole has met with officials from the Department of Defense on the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan which requires consultation with federally recognized tribes who have an interest in a specific area.

“ICRMP covers policies and procedures of handling ancestors’ remains as required under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act,” said Cole.

“We have established agreements with Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas, all states that were involved in the removal,” he said. “We return every two to five years to maintain our agreement.”

The award cited the Choctaw Nation for its willingness to share wisdom and guidance with the Alabama National Guard, something that Cole says is really only another way to honor the hundreds who perished on the long trail.

“It is an honor to be recognized by the State of Alabama,” said Cole. “We appreciate everyone who allows us to work with them in preserving our cultural heritage.”



NOTES TO THE NATION

Team player

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you so much for helping me to be able to attend the Girls Fast Pitch 10-and-under World Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri. My team, the “Thumpers,” placed in the top seven in the world. Without your help it wouldn’t have been possible for me to go. I think the Choctaw are great and proud to me a member of the Choctaw tribe.

Madison Lomon, Pocola, Oklahoma



Thank you for support

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Brian McGee is the son of Anita Silvey and the grandson of Virgil and Linda Silvey, all of Antlers. Brian is a senior at Antlers High School. He is an all-around athlete for the Antlers Bearcats, playing football, basketball and baseball. Brian is a member of the First Baptist Youth Group and Fellowship Christian Association. Brian chose to join the Marine Corps this past summer. Brian will be furthering his education with Wyo-tech in Wyoming State. Brian would like to take this opportunity to thank the Choctaw Nation for all its kindness and generosity with helping to attend and participate in the King Kamehameha Baseball Classic. I was glad to be able to represent the State of Oklahoma as well as the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



Reaching for her dreams

Dear Choctaw Nation and Chief Pyle,

My name is Jenny and I am a direct descendant of Rosie Stevenson, my grandmother. I would like to say with pride, James Lee (Cherokee) and Lizzy Gore (Choctaw) were my great-great-grandparents. Nannie Beck, who was married to Lycurgus Beck, was my great-grandmother. As a child I would hear stories from my grandmother about her Indian heritage and how she wanted to return to Oklahoma. She never did, although she made several trips to visit with her family. She became too busy raising the last of her grandchildren and I was one of those children. She always inspired me to reach high for dreams and that dreams fulfilled could touch and oftentimes change many lives.

I have reached for those dreams and have continued onward with my education and degrees in nursing. I have been a registered nurse for 18 years and for the last year I have been enrolled in the bachelor’s program through Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Florida, with completion of classes scheduled for the end of August. With the notes from my childhood, my lineage to the Nation was established. I contacted the Nation to see if I could be considered for possible financial assistance. I would like to say thank you for the scholarship money that was sent to assist me in my classes.

My life changed radically as I surrendered to become a medical missionary and have been blessed to be able to travel to several countries. It is my hope and dream to be able to continue with my degree and return to the Nation to assist with the needs of the people. Again, thank you for your financial assistance and perhaps one day soon I can come home to where my grandmother always wanted to return.

Brian McGee

Angela Stephens

Jenny Wright, Rison, Arkansas

Seeking information on Poole family

Dear Editor,

I have been looking for any information on my great-grandfather, Jesse James Poole. I have been told he was full-blood Choctaw. He had a sister, Grace Poole (died in Signal Hill, California); married my great-grandmother, Edyth Trigg (raised by her mother, Jane, and stepfather, Mr. Fisher, had a bunch of half-brothers and sisters – all Fishers). They had two children, James (changed his last name to Moore), and Drucielle Delores who was my grandmother. She was born December 14, 1906, in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. He was supposedly hung for horse-stealing or robbery in Edmond, Oklahoma, around 1908. I have lots of pictures of Indians, taken in the early 1900s, but there are no names on them or dates or places, but they must be family or important somehow. Anyone with info or where I can obtain more info please contact me. Thank you.

**Debby D. McManus
14305 Greenleaf, Conroe, TX 77302
mndfarm@aol.com**

Looking for information on family

Dear Editor,

I am trying to find some information about my great-grandfather, Enoch Thompson. All I know is that his father was (supposed to be as I was told) Jimpson Thompson, but upon searching, I came to find out that Jimpson was not his real father and that he was adopted by Jimpson Thompson and his family. I really need to find anyone who has an information on Jimpson Thompson and his family. If someone can, please call or e-mail me. It would really be appreciated. My grandmother is Linda Sue Thompson and her mother is Dollie Mae Mitchell Thompson and father is Enoch Hugh Thompson. I would really love to meet my lost family.

**Cindy Sue Hewitt Edwards
cedwards1199@yahoo.com; 972-913-8060;
2911 Nan Jones Ave., Balch Springs, TX 75180**

Researching ancestry

Dear Editor,

I am trying to determine my association with the Choctaw Nation. My birth name is Pete Allen Ardry. I have family that lives in Oklahoma, but my own parents are deceased and I was raised by step-parents in Texas. I have been told that my great-grandfather or grandfather was an orphan during the Dawes Commission times in Oklahoma. I am looking for someone who might know something about this. Any help is appreciated.

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

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BISHINIK® 2006

Feel The Thunder!

Don't Miss Our Second Annual Powwow
November 25th at Choctaw Coliseum
Over \$44,000 in prize money. Native American art, crafts and food booths available.

Contests:

ADULT WOMEN
Cloth, Buckskin, Fancy Shawl, Jingle Dress, Golden Age

ADULT MEN
Traditional, Straight, Grass, Fancy, Chicken, Golden Age

TEENS – SENIOR GIRLS 13-18
Cloth & Buckskin, Fancy Shawl & Jingle Dress

TEENS – JUNIOR GIRLS 7-12
Cloth & Buckskin, Fancy Shawl & Jingle Dress

TEENS – SENIOR BOYS 13-18
Traditional & Straight, Grass & Fancy

TEENS – JUNIOR BOYS 7-12
Traditional & Straight, Grass & Fancy

\$1,000 DRUM CONTEST

Tracy Pewo is sponsoring a Women's Choctaw Traditional Dance Special
Must be wearing traditional Choctaw dress. Must be in Grand Entry to participate in the special.

Arts & Crafts

Food

CHOCTAW Coliseum
Durant, Oklahoma

– SCHEDULE OF EVENTS –

Registration.....8 a.m.-11 a.m.
Gourd Dance10 a.m.-Noon
Grand Entry (All Dancers).....Noon
Break5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Choctaw Code Talkers Ceremony.....5 p.m.
Gourd Dance5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Grand Entry (All Dancers).....7 p.m.

Princesses and Royalty invited to participate in Grand Entry

– HEAD STAFF 2006 –

Arena Directors.....Mickey Weryackwe, Comanche
..... Bill Takeshorse, Crow
Master of Ceremonies Tim Tall Chief, Osage
..... Sammy Tonekei White, Kiowa
Host Gourd Dancer Gordon Roy
Head Judge..... Michael Roberts, Choctaw
Southern Drum..... Thunderhill
Southern Lead Singers Cheevers Topah
Northern Drum..... Buffalo Horse
Northern Lead Singers Virgil Mountain
Color Guard Choctaw Nation

For more information call:
Willard Polk: 580-924-8280, ext. 2349
Sharon Polk: 580-920-0160, ext. 1141

From desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle ...

\$1.2 million grant will assist in facility to construct Marine trailers



Chief Gregory E. Pyle

We have received notification from U.S. Senator James Inhofe that a grant of \$1.2 million has been awarded to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). The funds will be used for an additional facility in McAlester to assemble tactical vehicle trailers for the U.S. Marine Corps.

The prototypes have been designed and built and are being tested successfully in extremely

demanding military field tests. The tribe will be the only manufacturer of these particular trailers and will also train Marines to use them.

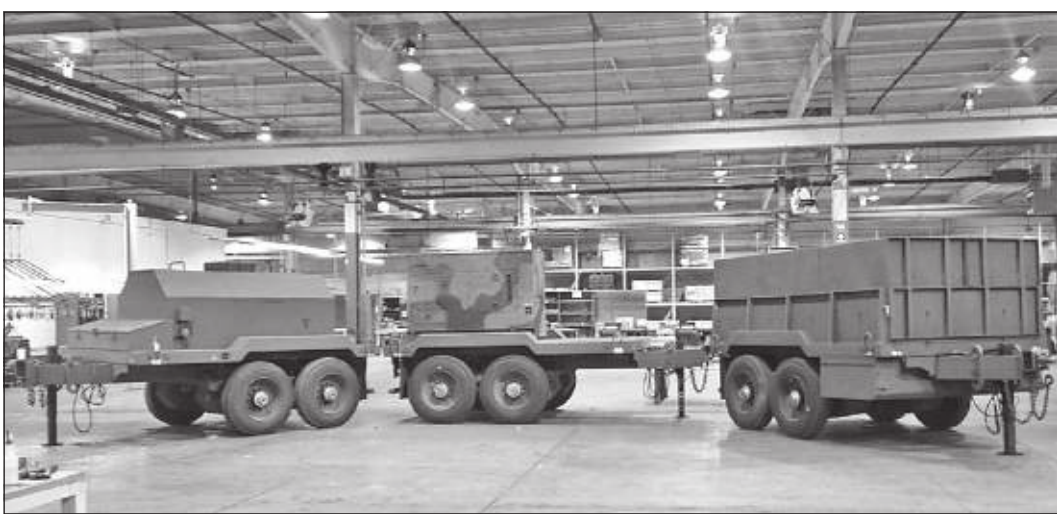
Receiving the sizable contract has necessitated the construction of a 90,000-square-foot building to use as the final assembly area for the trailer. The \$1.2 million grant from the EDA funds will help offset 25 percent of the total cost of the building, which will be on property already owned by

the Choctaw Nation. The tribe will provide the remainder of the costs for the new facility, as well as new equipment needed to complete the trailer assembly project.

A primary concern for the tribe is creating quality jobs. Building the transport trailers will create a high number of highly skilled jobs for the area. The tribe currently operates several other military contracts through Choctaw Manufacturing Development Corporation, which is the sole source for design and manufacture of the Improved Army Space Heater.

The corporation also manufactures numerous shipping and storage containers for laser guided bombs and other so-called “Smart Weapons” currently being used in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as sophisticated control and guidance parts for the Blackhawk helicopter.

When telling us of the huge grant, Senator Inhofe stated, “It is my personal pleasure to congratulate you on receiving an



investment ... of \$1,200,000. I am aware of the time and effort put forth by your organization to secure this award, and I am pleased that you have been chosen as a recipient.”

The tribe is very proud of the cooperative relationship we enjoy with Senator Inhofe. His assistance on past legislation, most recently on the Code Talker Recognition Act which

passed in the Senate with a unanimous vote, is very much appreciated. It is wonderful to have members of the Senate and House of Representatives that work on behalf of our tribe.

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey ...

HR 4893 undermines tribal sovereignty

All tribal people should thank Congressmen and Congresswomen who voted against HR 4893, the *Restricting Indian Gaming to Homelands of Tribes Act*. Oklahoma Congressmen Dan Boren and Tom Cole each voted against this act, which undermines tribal sovereignty. Thanks to them and other members of Congress who voted to put down the bill, it was defeated September 13th by a vote of 247-171.

A press release from Congressman Boren stated, “This bill represents a drastic change in federal policy that violates the sovereign rights guaranteed to Indian tribes. This is an issue for states to deal with on a case-by-case basis, not an issue



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

requiring new federal policy. In Oklahoma our tribes work closely with our local communities and the state. HR 4893 stands to undermine those relationships and sets a dangerous precedent for future federal leg-

islation.”

I certainly appreciate the wisdom of Congressman Boren and Congressman Cole in their vote and am reassured of their commitment to the tribal people of Oklahoma.

District 7 Halloween parties

October 27 – 6 p.m. at
Goodwater Church, Sobol

October 30 – 6 p.m. at
Wright City Center

THANKSGIVING Dinners

Antlers.....	November 14.....	6 p.m.
Atoka.....	November 8.....	11:30 a.m.
Bethel.....	November 20.....	5 p.m.
Broken Bow.....	November 16.....	5 p.m.
Coalgate.....	November 15.....	12 noon
Crowder Seniors.....	November 8.....	11:30 a.m.
Crowder Community.....	November 12.....	1 p.m.
Durant Community.....	November 6.....	6 p.m.
Hugo.....	November 13.....	6 p.m.
Idabel.....	November 15.....	12 noon
McAlester Seniors.....	November 8.....	11:30 a.m.
McAlester Community.....	November 12.....	1 p.m.
Poteau.....	November 14.....	11:30 a.m.
Smithville.....	November 15.....	11:30 a.m.
Spiro.....	November 16.....	11:30 a.m.
Stigler.....	November 15.....	11:30 a.m.
Talihina.....	November 17.....	11:30 a.m.
Tushka Homma.....	November 7.....	6 p.m.
Wilburton.....	November 15.....	12 noon
Wright City.....	November 16.....	6 p.m.

Christmas Parties

Antlers Children.....	December 8.....	6 p.m.
Antlers Seniors.....	December 20.....	11:30 a.m.
Bethel Children.....	December 14.....	6 p.m.
Bethel Seniors.....	December 15.....	12 noon
Broken Bow Children.....	December 11.....	6 p.m.
Broken Bow Seniors.....	December 13.....	12 noon
Burkhart Children.....	December 7.....	7 p.m.
Coalgate Children.....	December 10.....	2 p.m.
Coalgate Seniors.....	December 12.....	12 noon
Crowder Children.....	December 9.....	1 p.m.
Crowder Seniors.....	December 13.....	11:30 p.m.
Durant Children.....	December 1.....	6 p.m.
Eagletown Children.....	December 11.....	7:30 p.m.
Heavener Children.....	December 4.....	7 p.m.
Hugo Children.....	December 1.....	6 p.m.
Hugo Seniors.....	December 11.....	11:30 a.m.
Idabel Children.....	December 4.....	6 p.m.
McAlester Children (age 1-10).....	December 2.....	1-4 p.m.
McAlester Seniors.....	December 13.....	11:30 a.m.
Poteau Children.....	December 9.....	4-6 p.m.
Poteau Seniors.....	December 6.....	11:30 a.m.
Smithville Children.....	December 5.....	7 p.m.
Spiro Children.....	December 11.....	4-6 p.m.
Spiro Seniors (tentatively).....	December 19.....	11 a.m.
Summerfield Children.....	December 10.....	2-4 p.m.
Talihina Children.....	December 8.....	7 p.m.
Tushka Homma Children.....	December 5.....	6 p.m.
Tushka Homma Seniors.....	December 14.....	6 p.m.
Wright City Children.....	December 11.....	6 p.m.
Wright City Seniors.....	December 13.....	12 noon

More parties will be listed in the November edition of the BISHINIK

‘Men ought always to pray’

We thank God for another successful year for our Choctaw Nation. It was a blessing to hear our leaders and staff and visitors, during Labor Day, giving God thanksgiving for His abundant blessing.

There is not a person today that needs to be told to pray. Jesus said in Luke 18:1: “... men ought always to pray, ...”

Never stop praying! Paul said in I Thessalonians 5:17: “Pray without ceasing.” Make prayer a part of your life.

James said in James 4:3: “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

There is an area in our Christian life in which we fail, that is – our prayer life. Why does this happen?

Achukmalit ilanukfila chi ki! (Let us think seriously on these things.) I would suggest for your thinking, that it is not just an accident. It is the work of Satan.

Satan does not mind if you read the Bible – just so you don’t pray. Then you will never be born again. It may give you spiritual pride because you know the Bible so well.

Satan does not mind if you have faith – just so you don’t pray. Because he knows if you don’t pray, it is far more important to talk to God about men than it is to talk to men about God.

Satan does not mind if you become involved in the ministry of a local church – just so you don’t pray. Because you will be active, but you really won’t be accomplishing much. There is a passage in the book of Ephesians that tells you how to live a heavenly life in a worldly world. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, Ephesians 6:10-11, he says:

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Then he goes on with the detail in the pieces of that armor. Then notice the importance

of prayer in the 18th verse of Ephesians 6:

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and application for all saints.”

You see Satan has methods and one of the greatest is to keep you and me from praying.

I want to ask you this question: What did Christ do in His life on earth?

The life of Jesus Christ on earth was a life of prayer. Study the Gospels. Examine Christ’s prayer life. This study could revolutionize your prayer life.

Obviously Jesus prayed more than the 15 occasions recorded in the Gospels. Eleven of these 15 prayer times occurred in the Gospel of Luke and there is a reason for that.

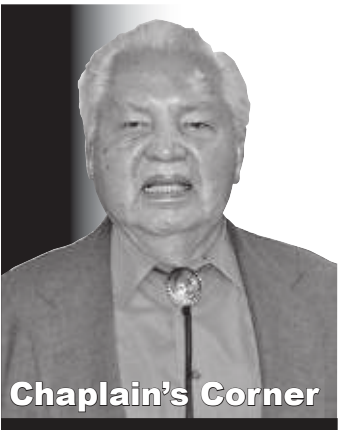
In the Gospel by Luke, Jesus Christ is presented as the Son of Man, and that’s why this is the Gospel that tells much about His prayer life, because Jesus Christ lived His life on earth dependently on God the Father through prayer.

Prayer can change your life to be dependent solely on God. And I recommend this privilege of prayer life to you today. This is the greatest privilege God has given to us – prayer.

It all begins in the Gospel of Luke 3:21-22. This occurs at His baptism. It begins at His baptism. This is when God the Father calls Him to a very specific ministry.

“Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:21-22).

Notice the order: He was loved. And He was well pleased by the Son’s work. It occurs three times in the Gospels, each time the heavens were opened and we hear this statement, “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.” Why



Chaplain's Corner

The Rev. Bertram Bobb

is that true? We don’t know the answer until we come to the Book of Hebrews where we are told that before Jesus Christ came to this earth He said in Hebrews 10:7:

“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God.”

God found all of His pleasure in the Son because the Son found all of his pleasure in doing the Father’s will.

And we read in Luke 5:16, “And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.” This is the secret of His ministry.

A man or woman who is effective in public is a person who is more effective in private. This is why Jesus takes the disciples to a solitary place and teaches them the importance of Prayer. Twelve times in the gospels Jesus takes them apart to pray.

If you are not a Christian, a believer in Jesus Christ, you can pray your first prayer, a prayer of repentance. Paul wrote to the Romans in Romans 10:9-11:

“That is thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”

Take God at His Word and claim His promise for your salvation.

May the Lord bless you and remember to pray. Pray for our nations. Pray for our men and women in the armed forces. Pray for God’s servants.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Get Movin’

Healthy foods can be tasty

With school back in full swing, parents are hit with the most important question when their children arrive home. “Is there anything to eat?” After a long day of school work and play, it is very normal for your child to be hungry, and a healthy snack before dinner is okay. Key word being “healthy.”

Beat the urge to keep chips and candy around. Your child will tend to feel sluggish after eating them and won’t have the energy to work off the calories.

Keep fresh fruits and vegetables handy. There are lots of fun ways to dress them up to even appeal to the pickiest of eaters! Celery with peanut butter topped off with raisins can become “Ants on a Log.” Low-fat Ranch dressing can be a tasty vegetable dip. Fresh or frozen fruit with some low-fat yogurt and ice can become an smoothie, which is excellent on a warm day! Show your child that healthy can also be tasty.

Most important, make sure just because the school day has ended, your child’s activity doesn’t. There are so many distractions these days with video games, computers, and TV, that kids forget to exercise. Just 30 minutes of exercise each day (above normal activity) can make a difference. Exercise can be fun, it doesn’t have to be a chore. Riding a bike, walking, swimming, etc. If it raises your heart rate, it is exercise!

The best way to encourage your child is by example. They pick up their habits by watching us. Adults benefit from nutrition and exercise, but what better reason could you have than being a role model? Let’s “GET MOVIN’!”

Healthy Lifestyles

Preventing underage drinking

Alcohol is the drug of choice among youth. They are drinking too much, at too early of an age. Underage drinking is a leading public health problem in this country today.

Did you know that each year, about 5,000 people under the age of 21 die as a result of underage drinking? This includes motor vehicle crashes, murders, suicides, falls, burns, and drownings, all as a result of alcohol use.

In 1965, the average age for first-time use of alcohol was 17 1/2 years, compared to now at the age of 14 years.

Drinking causes health risks in all ages. The younger we start, the longer it has to affect our bodies. Unlike an adult, young people are still developing and if they are drinking, may be putting themselves at risk for a range of potential health problems. Just some of the health risks include long-lasting impaired thinking and memory skills, liver damage, and an upset in a hormone balance that is necessary for normal development of organs, muscles, and bones.

Two helpful interventions to prevent underage drinking include:

School-Based Prevention Programs – Many programs are available. They address social pressures to drink and teach resistance skills. They are age appropriate and often have peer led curriculum and provide teacher training.

Family-Based Prevention – Parents have the ability to influence whether their children drink. Setting clear rules against drinking, enforcing those rules, and monitoring your child’s behavior will reduce the likelihood of underage drinking.

Today, alcohol is widely available and promoted throughout society. As alcohol use is regarded as a normal part of growing up, it will continue to be a danger to youth. We need to identify those at risk and help stop problems before they develop. Aren’t our youth worth it?

Healthy Lifestyles = Longer Life!

To the Youth of the Nation

Youth and tobacco

Submitted by Severt Dahl
Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

Today, about 2,050 adolescents will start smoking in the United States. More than half will start because of exposure to smoking in movies. Tobacco appears in 80 percent of the movies rated PG-13 – movies targeted directly at youth. The more a favorite star smokes in movies, the more likely that a teen viewer will smoke. Leading actors light up in over half of movies. When tobacco is shown in a movie, leading actors smoke in 82 percent of them.

Cigarette smoking is the #1 most preventable cause of disease and death in the United States. Smoking results in more deaths each year in the United States than AIDS, alcohol, cocaine, heroin, homicide, suicide, motor vehicle crashes, and fires COMBINED!!! Cigarettes not only affect you, but also the people around you. Secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and poses a serious health threat to nonsmokers, especially children and infants. It kills about 65,000 people a year, and contains more than 4,000 chemicals including carcinogens. Big tobacco companies not only target us through movies, but through their magazine ads. Did you know that tobacco companies spend up to \$185,000 on just one ad in Time or Newsweek? Why do they target us? Because we are the only source of replacement consumers for their products.

There is no safe tobacco product. Not even dip, snuff, chew, smokeless, or whatever you want to call it. None of these products are safe. You may think that tobacco companies just target us with cigarettes, but “How many adults do you know that use Apple, Berry, or Cinnamon Chew?”

Robinson is new medical director at DWC



The Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center in Talihina is very pleased to welcome Dr. Ronald Robinson as medical director of the clinic. Dr. Robinson’s specialty is endocrinology and he began seeing patients at the Diabetes Wellness Center on September 5.

“The Choctaw Nation has made a great commitment to advance the prevention and treatment of diabetes in the Choctaw Nation Community,” Dr. Robinson states. “I am very excited to join this effort and be a part of the program.”

Dr. Robinson comes to the Choctaw Nation

from Cooper Clinic, P.A., Ft. Smith, Arkansas. With a BA from the University of Oklahoma and MD from OU’s Health Sciences Center, Robinson completed his internship in 1977 and his residency in 1979, both at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan.

He is board certified by the National Board of Medical Examiners, 1977; American Board of Internal Medicine, 1980; Endocrine and Metabolism Subspecialty Boards, 1981; and Certified Clinical Bone Densitometry ISCD, 1999.

Keep Halloween festivities fun for all

Impaired driving can turn Halloween into a real nightmare. Americans who drive impaired during Halloween make it one of the year’s most dangerous and deadliest holidays due to alcohol-related crashes. Impaired driving is not accident – nor is it “a victimless crime.”

In 2003, 53 percent of all highway fatalities at Halloween were alcohol-related – with 45 percent of the total fatalities involving a drunk driver with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of 0.08 or higher – the legal limit in all states. But the nightmare of drinking and driving impaired does not end at the tragic death, disfigurement, disability, and injury caused by impaired drivers. If you’re caught and arrested for driving impaired, you face serious consequences and significant costs. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that highway crashes cost society \$230.6 billion a year, about \$820 per person.

Plan ahead – Designate a sober driver before all Halloween festivities.

- Be responsible and never drive impaired.
- If you plan to drink, choose your sober driver before going out.
- Once impaired, ask a sober friend to get you home.
- If all else fails, just stay where you are and sleep it off.
- Always buckle up – it’s still your best defense against an im-

paired driver.

- If you are hosting a Halloween party, make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver.
- REMEMBER: Friends Don’t Let Friends Drive Drunk.

Impaired driving is deadly serious. Statistics compiled by NHTSA for 2004 show that nearly 13,000 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or a motorcycle operator with an illegal BAC level of 0.08 or higher. Impaired driving is also a crime. Driving a vehicle while impaired is not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can

be really significant. Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver’s licenses, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses from attorney fees, other fines and court costs, car towing and repairs, lost time at work, etc. Plus, there is the added embarrassment, humiliation, and other consequences after informing family, friends, and employers.

This article is sponsored by the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program. If you have any questions regarding this article, other injury prevention tips, or the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program please call 580-326-8304, ask for Beckie Morris, IP Coordinator or e-mail at RMorris@choctawnation.com

Child abuse on the rise in Southeastern Oklahoma

Child abuse within the 10 ½ county service area of the Choctaw Nation is on the rise. The Oklahoma State Department of Human Services (OKDHS) reported in May 2006 there were a total of 1,273 confirmed investigations and assessments of child abuse/neglect. Of these, 126 were within the Choctaw Nation boundaries, with Pittsburg County being the highest with 40 cases and Bryan and McCurtain counties following with 29 and 20 cases respectively.

The Center for Disease Control states that the best prevention of child abuse is positive parenting and support. The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control gives these tips for positive parenting:

- **Use positive rewards** – Hugging children gives them the support they need and a sense of “belonging.” You can “catch your child being good” and praise behavior you want repeated.
- **Avoid violence at home** – Children imitate what they see and hear. Teach by the example you set.
- **Set limits** – Talk with your children about how you think they should act, and provide a penalty if these limits are violated.
- **Make a connection** – As children grow, they learn about their own personalities, likes, and dislikes. They form new friendships and participate in new activities. Be involved in this process

Call a HOTLINE STOP IT NOW!
1-888-PREVENT (773-8368)
or Child Help USA 1-800-4-A-CHILD (422-4453).

from the beginning. By making a strong connection with your child early, you can be a source of support and guidance when new situations arise. Here are a few ways to make a connection:

- **Talk with your child** – It seems obvious, but honest communication is crucial. Talking to your child, even to a baby, will help you both learn to talk openly about any situation.
- **Be a good listener** – Listen to what your child is saying. It’s important that your child be able to ask you questions. Children are curious. Questions about drugs or sex do not mean they are doing those things.
- **State your expectations** – Your children look up to you. Clearly state your expectations and values, especially about difficult topics like drugs, sex, smoking, and dating. This will encourage them to come to you if they have questions or need support.
- **Get help if you need it** – Parenting is a rewarding experience, but it is not always easy. Sometimes you may need support from others. By connecting

with friends or family members in your community, you can get support when times are tough. You can also be a resource for others. Making contact with other parents is a great way to share helpful stories and learn tips. Take action if you need help:

- **Rely on family, friends, co-workers, and others for support** – Talk to them about any problems or stress.
- **Ask for break** – Breaks are essential, especially when you’re frustrated. You can repay the favor by giving other parents a needed break when they face similar circumstances.
- **Call a HOTLINE** – When you have nowhere else to turn, call STOP IT NOW! 1-888-PREVENT (773-8368) or Child Help USA 1-800-4-A-CHILD (422-4453).
- **Be a supervisor** – Although you can’t always see it, children are constantly growing and developing. For healthy growth, children need supervision and care. By caring for your children, you can prevent injuries such as bruises and fractures. You can also prevent child

abuse and neglect, a serious setback that can lead to poor relationships, violence, self harm, and reduced thinking ability in adulthood. You can care for your children in many ways:

- **Monitor your children** – Know their whereabouts and activities. When they’re at home, keep an eye on them to help prevent injuries. When they go out, ask questions: Where are you going? Who will be there? What will you do?
- **Make safety a priority** – Protect your children from injury by making sure they use bike helmets, seat belts, car seats, and other safety equipment.
- **Protect your children from violence** – Help them avoid violent peers; violent TV programs, computer and video games, or music; and keep violence out of your own relationships. If your children see violence, talk with them about what they saw.
- **Remember** ... all parents have problems from time to time. Good parenting is a skill that takes time, commitment, and support. By caring and nurturing, parents can teach children and other parents strategies to give our children a safer and more healthful environment.

For more information on child abuse/injuries or support programs feel free to contact Beckie Morris, Injury Prevention Coordinator, at 1-877-285-6893 or e-mail: RMorris@choctawnation.com.

Spend time with your children – It’s Teen Talk Month

It’s a different world today. Kids are growing up faster. Television, movies, magazines and music videos are bombarding our children with thousands of sexual messages a day. But that’s not the only reason why more than one million U.S. teenagers will end up pregnant this year, or why 60 percent of U.S. teens will have experienced sex before their 18th birthday.

Another important reason is that many parents don’t know how to talk to their children about sexuality. They’re not sure what to say or when to say it.

Here are some suggestions to help in this area:

➤Spending time with your children – Turn off the television and make time to talk to them everyday about school, friends, their teachers. If you start early having conversations with your child, talking about sexuality will be just like any other conversation.

➤Begin early – If you think that 14 or 15 is a good age to begin talking, think again. The dramatic rise in teen pregnancy has revealed that girls are having sex at 14 and boys are starting at 12. Experts believe that 10 years of age is not too early to have that talk.

➤Talk, Talk, Talk – You can make it easier if you prepare for it. Ask yourself what you wanted to know when you were a kid. Write it down. Know what you want to say. If you’re not sure when to start, take advantage of particular moments – “teachable moments,” when the opportunity presents itself. (Article from paper, words in a song, or a program on television.) Say something that lets them know that you are willing to talk about it. The hardest part is getting started.

➤Speak your mind – If you don’t want your kids to have sex – tell them. Tell them there is a time for everything. Right now

their time should be spent doing school work, enjoying family and friends, and setting goals that will help them to get everything that they want out of life. Believe it or not you are the most powerful influence in their lives so tell them what you think.

➤Now listen – Communication is a two-way street. You’ve had your chance to speak now it is your child’s turn. Let them question your beliefs. They will then know they’re allowed to express themselves, without fear of losing your love, or feeling that they’re doing something wrong. Try to understand where they’re coming from and really listen. Do not lecture or criticize. It’s the only way your discussion can lead to understanding and agreement.

National research shows that good communication reduces risky behavior and makes children less likely to become teen parents. The best way to get

information is actually talking to your children. However we know that talking with adolescents is not always easy. Nonetheless parents have found that when they begin an open and honest dialogue with their children about sex that the communication among family members improves all the way around.

If you need more information about sexuality and communication with adolescents look for guidance from: Books in your public library, pamphlets and advice from the Health Department, classes through the adult education program in your school district, specific programs for adolescents and parents through local or national organizations, groups, or religious affiliations. Or please feel free to contact the **CARES Project Office at 918-567-4128. Hypim Villa Chipunta Yvt Pi Nitak Tïkba Minti, “Our Children are Our Future.”**

Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids Project

During the Labor Day Festival 2006, at the Healthy Living Tent, there were 74 couples who graciously posed for pictures for the Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids Project and shared how long they had been married. We have featured the longest married couples: Mr. and Mrs. Cody Miller who have been married 62 years and Don and Opal Shaw who have been married 57 years. Cora Lea Davis was married 51 years and widowed four years and Johnnell Monigold was married 41 years and widowed eight days.

These couples are an inspiration to us all concerning commitment and longevity in a relationship.

What is commitment? According to “Fighting for Your Marriage” by Howard Markham, Scott M. Stanley and Susan L. Blumberg, there are two common ways to think about commitment. The commitment of personal dedication refers to the desire to maintain or improve the quality of the relationship for the mutual benefit of both partners.

Personal dedication is characterized by a desire (and action) not only to continue in the relationship but also to improve it, sacrifice for it, invest in it, link it to personal goals, and seek the partner’s welfare, not just one’s own.

In contrast, constraint commitment refers to forces that keep individuals in relationships whether or not they’re dedicated. Constraints help keep couples together by making ending the relationship more cost-



ly – economically, socially, personally, or psychologically. If dedication is low, constraints can keep people in relationships they might otherwise want to leave.

Commitment is crucial to marriage as well. In fact, it may be the most important ingredient in the recipe for marital success. Pledging yourselves to each other and promising to love and support each other until you die can hold you together like no other glue. There is great power in commitment made between two loving people. (“12 Hours to a Great Marriage” by Markham, Stanley, Blumberg, Jenkins, Whitely)

Want to learn more about commitment? Attend one of our PREP workshops.

- PREP workshops scheduled:
- Talihina Choctaw Nation Challenge Course, October 20 at 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.,



October 21 at 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact 918-567-3065.

- Stigler Kiamichi Technical Center, (over six weeks on Thursdays at 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.), October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 9, 16. Contact 918-567-3065.

A heroine in disguise

Reprinted from Wal-Mart World

D’Anna Ashalintubbi-Bean was a recipient of the 2006 “Sam Walton Hero Award” for saving a small child’s life. D’ Bean a quality assurance operations manager from Terrell, Texas, was on vacation at Turner Falls in Davis with her children and grandchildren when she managed to save a little boy from drowning.

On one of her vacation days, after lunch D’ saw several children playing and sliding down an embankment near the water. The children continued to play, but something went wrong. A boy around 3 years old got to the bottom of the ridge and started sinking in the water, gasping for breath.

“He’s going to drown,” D’ says, explaining that the boy drowning was the only thing that went through her mind. The boy did not have on a life jacket, so D’ immediately jumped into the water and saved the child’s life.

“Once it was all over and the boy was okay, the boy’s parents sent him over to me and he said, ‘Thank you’,” D’ says. “That was enough for me. I am simply glad I was there to help. Suffering from back and leg problems at the time, D’ put herself at risk without thinking twice about it. After the incident, the child’s parents are very grateful to her for saving their son’s life and her own family members are extremely proud of her. D’ was also presented with the Sam Walton Hero Award for her quick thinking action. “I am both honored and grateful, but I don’t view myself as a hero,” she says. “I would just like to sincerely appreciate the company for this recognition; it is truly a great honor for me.”



Williamsonovercomes autism to become tennis champion

Before his National USTA ranking and numerous first place wins, he was known as a boy who would have to live in an assisted-living home. Breaking the mold, Ben is now at the top of the game of tennis. He is currently ranked number one in Men’s Open Singles in the five-state USTA Missouri Valley Region and nationally ranked in the top 100 tennis players in the United States. Ben studied the moves of the pros and learned to play tennis by watching video tapes of the U.S. Open. He now plays nationally in the USTA Men’s Open Singles Division with the pros.

Always smiling whether winning or losing, Benjamin Talako Williamson, 22, born with autism, defied the odds when he graduated from Bethany High School Championships. Bethany High School had never participated with a tennis team until Ben came along. Placing in the finals in the state each of his four high school years and then going undefeated at the Oklahoma All State Tennis Competition were just the beginning for Benjamin. “Tennis is a blessing for Benjamin,” said Freda Williamson, Ben’s grandmother. As Ben continues to deal with his autism, inspirational players such as Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and Roger Federer have provided hundreds of hours of learning material for this young man. Ben’s grandmother went on to explain that, “Tennis has given him confidence and self-esteem.”

From a boy who at the age of four could barely speak, Ben has grown into an individual who has broken down barriers, and gone on to set a reality example that “handicap” is only what you allow it to be. He now not only plays for himself, but for Babolat Racquets, who have recognized his talent with sponsorship.

Ben also works with the Santa Fe Racquet Club in Oklahoma City, helping their juniors’ program and as Ben says, “He helps the juniors to learn to ignore what others think of you and just be yourself and don’t cheat.” Honesty, integrity, practice and hard work are what Ben says are the keys to becoming a good tennis player.

“Play for yourself,” says Ben.

Freda Williamson remembers sitting for hours at the local park while he would hit a tennis ball alone with an “old Wal-Mart racquet” into a practice backboard. Ben has since moved on, playing in several National USTA Adult Open tournaments and working as the Junior Pro’s Assistant at Santa Fe Racquet Club in Oklahoma City. He hopes to begin playing the futures and satellite circuit for money, but for now, Ben continues playing on the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) circuit, plans on continuing to learn the aspects of pro tennis by hard work.

While Ben’s grandmother is responsible for discovering his greatest love, all who know him agree that Ben truly deserves the credit for taking on his misfortune and accepting his gift at tennis. According to Ben, “I just want to do my best and help the younger kids learn to play tennis. I learned a lot about sportsmanship and honesty playing in high school juniors. My favorite tournament was when my grandma and I took a bus to Iowa for a juniors’ tournament. I was so scared, I just kept hitting the ball and playing tennis,” Ben said.

“My grandma helped me find tennis on television and I learned to play from Pete and Andre.”

“Ben is very special to me, he is my brother.” – Tanchi Nashoba Williamson



NURSERY NEWS

Kevin Ray Terrell Jr.

Sisters Savannah Terrell and Bailey Brown would like to welcome their baby brother to the family. Kevin Ray Terrell Jr. was born February 21, 2006. Kevin was born in Durant at MCSO. He weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 inches long. His proud parents are Kevin and Michelle Terrell of Durant and grandparents are Bruce and Beverly Hill, Louisa Kruger and the late Bo Kruger, all of Durant.



Shacota Ray Robinson

Shawn and Rachel Robinson of Spencer welcomed their first little blessing on June 7, 2006. Shacota Ray Robinson was born at Carl Albert Indian Hospital, Ada. He was born at 7:45 a.m. He weighed 5 pounds 12 ounces and was 18.8 inches long. His proud grandparents are John and Sharon Robinson of Del City, David and Twila Allen of Purcell, and Ralph and Janet Gilbert of Choctaw. He was also welcomed by his uncles, Coty Robinson and Chris Gilbert, and his aunts, Kim and Joy, and lots of cousins.



Allison Nicole McClaughry

Kevin and Andrea McClaughry are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Allison Nicole McClaughry. She was born June 20, 2006, in Portland, Oregon. She weighed 8 pounds and measured 20 inches. Allison’s big sister is Emily Elizabeth. Her grandparents are William and Judith Freeman of Salem, Oregon, and Patrick and Carolyn McClaughry of Salem.



Summer Lynn Olson

Danny and Tasha Olson are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Summer Lynn Olson, born at 4:50 p.m. on June 20, 2006. She weighed in at 7 pounds 10 ounces and measured 20.5 inches long. Proud siblings are 4-year-old brother Rory and 3-year-old sister McKenzie. Grandparents are Nana and Pepaw, Pat and Matt Dill of Calera, and Grama and Grampa, Linda and Galen Olsen of Amorita; great-grandparents are Poppa and Nenore, Haskell and Elenore Dill of Boswell, Granny Betty Massengale of Boswell, and Ada Lawrence.



Dillon Beau Halliburton

Andy and Rejeina Halliburton of Krebs are proud to announce the birth of their son, Dillon Beau Halliburton. He was born July 21, 2006, at the Choctaw hospital, Talihina. He weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and was 20.4 inches long. Dillon’s grandparents are James and Marietta Sensibaugh of Haileyville; Gayla Halliburton of Krebs and Ernie Halliburton of McAlester; great-grandparents are Richard and Linda Beams of Blanco, Skip and Katy Sensibaugh of Hartshorne, Earnest and Katherine Halliburton of McAlester, Sue and the late Jack Green of Bugtussle; great-great-grandparents are Peggy Van Hoozer of McAlester and Ruby Dean of Gowen.



Wyatt Onsii Hawkins

Wayne and Martina Hawkins of Clayton are proud to announce the birth of their son, Wyatt Onsii Hawkins. Wyatt came into this world on July 20, 2006, at 1:54 a.m. at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center. He weighed 8 pounds 14 ounces and was 20 inches long. Proud brothers are Severt and Marvin Dahl of Clayton. Wyatt’s grandparents are Jerry and Rosy Hawkins of Burneyville, Tom and Bobbie Sharp of Divide, and the late Marvin Pool; great-grandmother is Carol Alexander of Clayton.



Conner Joseph Adams

Family members are welcoming Conner Joseph Adams, born August 17, 2006. His parents are Greg Adams and Norma Taylor, both of Hugo; Grandparents are Lori Canfield of New Port, Oregon, Paul Adams of Los Angeles, California, and Evelyn and Preston Taylor of Hugo. Lawrence and Dorothy Adams of Sun City, California, are Conner’s great-grandparents.



Madelyn Kay Battiest

Madelyn Kay is the name that Walker and Jamie Battiest have picked out for their daughter, born August 24, 2006, in Duncan. She weighed 9 pounds 3 ounces and was 19 inches long. Welcoming “Maddie” are sister Kathleen, 3, and brother, Carson, 2. Grandparents are Deborah Battiest and the late Allen Battiest, Ronald and Veta Howard and great-grandma, “Good” Howard.

Daniel Wayne LeBar

Andrea Christian and Timothy LeBar are pleased to announce the birth of their first-born, Daniel Wayne LeBar. Daniel was born at 9:04 p.m. on August 28, 2006, at Darnall Army Community Hospital at Fort Hood, Texas. He weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces and was 19 inches long. Proud grandparents are Judy and Roy Christian. Great-grandparents are Eloise Christian and the late Meada Rusco; an aunt, Stephanie Christian, and an uncle, Roarke Christian.



Ayden Shane Townsend

Ayden Shane Townsend was born August 31, 2006, in Lakeland, Florida, weighing 7 pounds 2 ounces and measuring 21 inches long. Parents are Menda Higgins and Anthony Townsend of Lakeland. Grandparents are James Higgins of Broken Bow and Tena (Hutchison) and Thomas Perez of Lakeland. Great-grandparents are Marie Higgins and the late Jack and Lois Hutchison of Broken Bow.

Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

Serving the Choctaw Nation at 14 sites

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

Stafford family to meet October 29

The Stafford family is having an annual family memorial service on October 29. The dinner will be held at the home of Christine Simpson, located at HC 76 in Eagletown, six miles south of Eagletown.

Approximate time for dinner will be noon on Sunday. Following the dinner, the service will be held at Ponki Bok Cemetery. All friends and family are invited to attend.

Members of the Stafford families are coming from all over to celebrate their family’s love and lives.

Please call Christine Simpson if you have any questions at 580-835-2212.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW



Chahtas compete in National Championship

The Chahtas, an all-Indian women’s fastpitch softball team from Antlers, are well-known and successful on the All-Indian softball circuit. On August 3-6, the Chahtas, the majority of whom are Choctaw, made their name known nationally in the world of fastpitch softball by securing a second place finish in the ASA Women’s Class B National Championship, held in Broken Arrow. The Chahtas competed against teams that fielded players who were former Division I players, as well as up-and-coming college-bound players. Not to be intimidated, the Chahtas were the surprise of the tournament, according to many spectators, teams, coaches, and tournament officials.

Their opening game went to extra innings against the Oklahoma Outrage. The battery of pitcher Christina “CiCi” Cearly and catcher Vernetta Shirley was nearly flawless as they kept the Outrage off-balance; however, the Chahtas came up short in the effort, losing 2-1. The next game was against the BTA from Sand Springs. Gloria Jobe pitched a one-hit shut-out and the offense was on fire with Charlene Wisdom and Kris Mitchell leading the attack for a 13-0 run-rule ending. The Chahtas moved on in the loser’s bracket to face its nemesis, Outrage. Capitalizing on the mistakes of the infield, the Chahtas scored early to take the lead. Cearly went the distance and was backed up by solid defensive efforts of Desiree Booker, Yulonda Mathis, Sheila Watson, Misty Martinez and Cheryl Billy. Mitchell made it around the base paths twice, to give the Chahtas its 2-0 lead and the Outrage could not overcome its deficit. The Chahtas moved on to the National Championship game and with a chance to become the number one team in the nation. The California Gold Rush, San Mateo, California, had other intentions and went undefeated in the tournament defeating the Chahtas in the final game.

The Chahtas had three members named to the All-American Team – Christina Cearly, Desiree Booker and Charlene Wisdom. Charlene also won the prestigious Best Hitter Award as well.

The Chahtas were formed in 1998 and based out of southeastern Oklahoma. Their all-time record is W-114, L-53, including a eight tourney championships, six runner up and five third-place finished, coached by Jay Watson. The team can now add the title of National Tournament Runner-Up in Women’s Class B Fastpitch Softball.

Happy 94th birthday

Happy birthday to Ida Anderson Thomas. Ida grew up in Connorville, Oklahoma, and attended Chilocco and Oklahoma A&M. She celebrated her 94th birthday on August 10 with family and friends in Oklahoma City where she resides. She had a grand time eating Indian tacos and her favorite yellow cake and ice cream. Her family is so proud of her and wish her many more years.



Ashton is 14

Happy belated 14th birthday to Ashton. She celebrated her birthday on September 4. She is an eighth-grader at Rock Creek and is active in basketball, softball and showing livestock. Ashton is the daughter of Russell and Paula and the granddaughter of Edmond and Crickett Jones and Randell and Linda Thompson. Her great-grandmother is Louise Carroll. Ashton’s brother, Cody, celebrated his 19th birthday on August 28.



Toni turns 10

Happy tenth birthday to Toni Lee-Ann, the daughter of Christopher Choate of Bennington and Tammie Hartman of Calera. Toni is the granddaughter of Franklin Choate of Bennington and Ron and Mary Seiger of Thackerville; Aunt Lavon of Calera, Uncle Wayne of Calera and Uncle Jamie and Aunt Amy of Edinburg, Texas.



Look who’s 1

Starla Denay Taylor and John C. Clark would like to wish their little angel, Jolie Naya Clark, a very happy first birthday on October 22. Happy Birthday, Jolie, from mom and dad.



Binker is oshta (4)

The family of Dylan Michael Garcia wishes their little Choctaw a very belated birthday on July 7. Binker hails from Hillsboro, Oregon. He is the pride of his parents, Kevin and Elizabeth Garcia; brother, Trevor, and sister, Amber. The grandpas and grandmas, Stan and Nancy Spring Garcia from Hanford, California, and Sam Ashenbener and Paula Hughes of Oregon also wish Dylan a great time and good luck in pre-school. Nayukpa-Ho! (Be happy!)



Celebrating 60th

Nita Iskitini (Cecil D. Cartlidge) is celebrating his 60th birthday. “You have always been a great leader and provider for your family and will eternally have our love and respect. Here’s to another awesome 60 years.” Happy birthday – Lance, Joel, Chase and Raven.



Happy birthday Matthew and Rebecca

Birthday wishes go out to Matthew and Rebecca Wall. Matthew will turn 2 on October 28th and Rebecca turned 13 on September 12. Their parents are George and Sabrina Wall of Anna, Texas.



Happy 1st Birthday

Cameron Cael Sensibaugh born on May 21, 2005. A birthday celebration was held at the Grand Avenue, United Methodist Church in McAlester. He is the son of Kyle and Terri Sensibaugh of Haileyville. Grandparents are James and Marietta Sensibaugh of Haileyville and Jim and Debbie Reynolds of Haileyville and David and Angela Kenworthy of McAlester. Great-grandparents are Richard and Linda Beams of Blanco, Skip and Katy Sensibaugh of Hartshorne and Claude and Pat Lively of Blocker. Great-great-grandparents are Peggy Van Hoozer of McAlester and Ruby Dean of Gowen. Happy birthday big guy from all your family and friends.



Happy birthday

William J. “Jim” Lewis of Williams, Arizona, is proud to say “Happy Birthday” to his granddaughter, Olivia. Jim is the grandson of Ola Marlow, an original enrollee. Olivia is the daughter of Daniel and Kristin Lewis of El Cajon, California. She is 2 years old and learning to cherish her Choctaw heritage.



Belated birthday wishes

Happy belated birthday, Grandma, on July 17, from all of us – Dave and Joyce, Bill and Dezirai, Alisha and Justin, Jayden, Matt and Megan, Madison, Jack and Jessica, Brandon, Blake, Kelly, Noah, Tim and Tressa, Ocean, Cheyann, Kenny and Heather.



Happy 33rd

Happy 33rd birthday to Tim of Joplin, Missouri, on July 20. We are so proud of you – keep up the good work! Grandma Ann Tallant; mom and stepdad, Dave and Joyce Tallant Anderson; Betty Witt, Dezirai and Bill; Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Jack, Brandon, Blake, wife Teresa, daughters Ocean, Cheyanne, Kenny, Heather and Terry.



Wedding bells

David and Joyce Tallant Anderson of Joplin, Missouri, are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Dezirai Daniels, to Bill Witt, the son of Betty Witt of Webb City, Missouri. Dezirai is the granddaughter of Ann Tallant of Bakersfield, California, and Janis Walker of Joplin.



The bride-to-be is the owner of Images N Thangs. She is also a travel agent at Dezemae’s Travel Agency.

The groom-to-be is in the Army National Guard. He served 14 months in Iraq. He is a heat and air field supervisor and also helps with Images N Thangs.

The wedding is planned for February 28 in Joplin.

Brandon turns 7

Happy seventh birthday on August 12 to Brandon of Joplin, Missouri. We are so proud of you – keep up the good work! Grandma Ann Tallant, Grandma and Pa Dave and Joyce Tallant Anderson, Grandma Betty Witt, Dad and Dez, Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Blake, Jack, Uncle Tim, Aunt Teresa, cousins Ocean and Cheyanne, Uncle Kenny, Aunt Heather and Uncle Terry.



Happy 19th

Happy 19th birthday to Alisha, Joplin, Missouri, on September 17. We are so proud of you – keep up the good work! Grandma Ann Tallant, Grandma and Pa Dave and Joyce Tallant Anderson, Grandma Betty Witt, Dad and Dez, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Brandon, Blake, Jack, Uncle Tim, Aunt Teresa, cousins Ocean and Cheyanne, Uncle Kenny, Aunt Heather and Uncle Terry.



Kenny turns 27

Happy 27th birthday to Kenny, Joplin, Missouri, on September 25. We are so proud of you – keep up the good work! Grandma Ann Tallant, Grandma Janis Walker, mom and stepdad Dave and Joyce Tallant, Betty Witt, Dezirai and Bill, Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Jack, Brandon, Blake, Tim, Teresa, Ocean, Cheyanne, wife Heather, and Terry.



Happy 17th birthday

Happy 17th birthday to Jack, Joplin, Missouri, on September 25. We are so proud of you – keep up the good work! Grandma Ann Tallant, Grandma and Pa Dave and Joyce Tallant Anderson, Grandma Betty, Mom and Bill, Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Brandon, Blake, Uncle Tim, Aunt Teresa, cousins Ocean and Cheyanne, Uncle Kenny, Aunt Heather and Uncle Terry.



Happy birthday

Lawrence Thompson celebrated his 55th birthday on July 9. He is the son of Caroline Thompson of Paris. His family and friends would like to express just how much he means to them and how much love and respect they all have for him. He is one of a kind and is well known in Paris. He has many talents but he specializes in carpentry and lawn service. He takes pride in his work. On his birthday his loving wife took him for a night out on the town on a lovely romantic and private retreat. Lawrence has three brothers and four sisters that wish him many more birthdays to come. From the family and friends of Lawrence Thompson.



Happy birthday

Matthew turned 9 on July 16 and Macey turned 2 on May 7. Their parents are Matt and Stacey McAmis of Paris, Texas. Happy birthday!



Birthday wishes

Ruth and family would like to wish Dennis Hudson a happy fourth birthday on September 14. She would also like to wish his dad, Larry Hudson, a happy birthday. He turned the Big 30 on October 2.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Barbara “Bobby” Jean Parnell of Oklahoma City who celebrated her 76th birthday on August 14.



Kristianna turns 12

Kristianna Holder turned 12 years old on October 10. She attends Lighthouse Christian Academy in Dallas. Her grandparents are Clark and Peggy Holder. They celebrated with a party for her at one of the amusement parks in Dallas. Happy birthday, Kristianna.



Happy 20th

Happy birthday wishes go out to Sonya Hamilton on her 20th birthday on October 5. Her Mamaw would like to wish her a very happy birthday.



Life begins at 80

Rosemary Price Dugger celebrated her 80th birthday on September 13. A country-western party was given in her honor the following Saturday at the home of her son, Gary Dugger, in Grass Valley, California.



Her sisters and brother; children; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and friends were in attendance. Rosemary is the daughter of Garrett Hakolotubbe and Sadie Ray Price. Rosemary married Wesley Ray Dugger in 1946. She is the sister of Gerry Stephenson, Norma Petko, Ruth Mayer, and David Price. She is the mother of Gary Ray Dugger, Glenn Dugger, Tori Pereira and John Dugger. Rosemary graduated from Hartshorne School in 1944.

Happy birthday

The Hunter family would like to wish Rhonda Hunter a big happy birthday and also announce the birth of Nathen, the great-grandson of Delbert T. Hunter; grandson of Rhonda Hunter; and son of Rachel Espinoza.



Nix graduates from Lawton

Lawton graduate Angela Nix was Safety Committee Secretary, Honor Bay and Bay Leader. Angie was Vice President of her class and Captain of the girl’s basketball team and co-captain of the softball team. Her trade was business and Office Technology. Angila was accepted into college in Kansas City Missouri. She left August 19. Congratulation from mom Tina Betsey, Thomas and Kelly McCoy, Jennifer, Dillon, Tyler, Cheyanne, Cherokee, grandpa Adam Betsey, grandma Gladys Barcus and all your family in Coalgate.



50th wedding anniversary

Harvey and Velma Sweet of Muskogee celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family trip to Las Vegas hosted by their three children, Linda Sweet Gordon (Marlon), Kevin Sweet, and Harvey Sweet Jr. (Janie). The couple has five grandchildren, Stephanie, Tristan, Lindsey, Dustin and Matthew. Mr. and Mrs. Sweet met while Mr. Sweet was serving as an officer in the U.S. Air Force and were married on June 18, 1956. The couple settled in Muskogee after Mr. Sweet’s retirement from the Air Force. While living in Muskogee, he worked an additional 20 years with the Veterans Administration. Mrs. Sweet has been active in the community as Sunday School volunteer, hospital volunteer and coordinator/training for a variety of Bridge Club activities as well as being a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Mr. Sweet is an avid golfer and Mrs. Sweet is a “Master” bridge player, they both enjoy playing bridge. They are both active in their church.



Happy anniversary

The Graebers were married in Reno on September 27, 1974. They have been married for 32 years and have six children between them. Mrs. Graeber is a Choctaw who has a birthday on October 24. She will be turning 58 years old. Congratulations to you both.



Fair-goers

Taw-Cre-Nee, 7, and Madrona, 5, of Las Vegas, Nevada, attended the Vinland Fair in Vinland, Kansas, in August. Taw-Cre-Nee got first place in the old-fashioned sack race. They are the daughters of Johnny Hendry and Tawnee McKinney. Their grandmother, Delene Impson, of Baldwin, Kansas, provided the picture of the girls.



Hawkins wins Outstanding Achievement in the Arts Award

Tara Hawkins, daughter of Clint and Patty Hawkins of Talihina, recently competed in the Miss Pre-Teen Oklahoma Scholarship and Recognition Program in Tulsa. The participants were judged on their academic achievements and honors, as well as volunteer service, leadership abilities, and creative talents. Tara won one of three awards given to Outstanding 11-year-olds. Because of her involvement in tap/jazz and ballet dance, basketball, softball, band, choir and her church drama team, Tara also won the only award given for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts. Tara’s family is extremely proud of her and would like to thank all of her sponsors for helping her participate in this event.



Morgan graduates from Battiest

Morgan K. McGee graduated from Battiest High School on May 21, with a 3.5 gpa through high school. Morgan received awards in English and Speech and was a member of the National and Oklahoma Honor Society. He is now attending SOSU with a regent’s tuition waiver, the Hailey Herron Scholarship Fund, Battiest Community Foundation, as well as other scholarships. We want to thank all those who are helping with higher education for Morgan. Morgan is the son of Deloris Samuels of Bethel and Michael McGee of Broken Bow. Grandparents are Virginia Jefferson of Bethel and Laura Lewis of Battiest. Happy belated birthday wishes also go out to Morgan who turned 19 years old on July 7.



All State

Justin Nail, 2006 graduate of Ada High School, was selected as an Oklahoma Coaches Association All State Football player this summer. Justin is 6 foot 2 inches and weighs 275 pounds. He was an offensive lineman for the Ada Cougars and had the privilege of playing in the All State game in Tulsa on July 28. Justin plans to continue his football career with the East Central Tigers this fall. He will be majoring in accounting. Justin is the son of Keith and Renee Nail of Ada and Josh’s big brother.



Halito to Choctaws in the Fort Worth/Dallas/Midcities

Tommy V. Whiteman, a proud Choctaw, has been promoted to Managing Director in a great company and has also been involved in family research.



Clark graduates from University of Redlands

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Jonathan David Clark. He graduated from the University of Redlands with a B.S. Business Administration in May.

Long graduates with Associate of Applied Science

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Jessica D. Long. She graduated from Collin County Community College in May with an Associate of Applied Science, Dental Hygiene, and Magna Cum Laude.



Owen is outstanding scholar

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma would like to recognize and congratulate Laura Carroll Owen on her graduation from Midland High School in Midland, Texas. Laura is the daughter of Mark Owen and Debra Carroll, and granddaughter of Jack and Dixie Owen. Laura graduated third in her class of 552. Among her awards are Provost Scholarship at Hendrix College, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, National Merit Finalist, National Honor Society, Midland Downtown Lion’s Club Student of the Week, National Latin Exam gold medalist, Law Day Essay Contest second place, State Board of Education Certificate of Academic Excellence, “A” Honor Roll every academic year, University Interscholastic League – participation in Math, Science, Number Science, and Social Studies, advancing to District in Math and Region in Social Studies.

Laura is an active volunteer both on and off stage at Midland Community Theatre, and was an active member and officer (Marketing Spokesperson and Secretary) in the Pickwick Players, a teenage active group. She helped other students through People Teaching People, a charitable tutoring group, and volunteered at Christmas in Action, Habitat for Humanity, Spring Break Fine Arts Camp, and as a youth elder at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Laura will be attending Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, where she will pursue her life-long love of learning.

Congratulations!

Brandon Paul James graduated from Duncanville High School, Duncanville, Texas, on June 2, 2006. Brandon is the son of Darrell and Carolyn James of Duncanville and grandson of the late Alma Cole and Jack W. Ned of Durant and the late Imogene and Irvin Ward-James of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. A full-blood Choctaw, Brandon was a member of the Spanish Club, Auto Tech Club, Volunteer for North Texas Food Bank, Big Brothers and Big Sisters Org, and nominated for the Texas Scholar Award. Following graduation, Brandon will attend Mountain View College in the fall with plans to study pre-law. We’re all proud of you and wish you and wish you all the luck.



Williams graduates with BA in Criminology

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Hollie Michelle Williams. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma Arts & Sciences in May with a BA in Criminology and a Minor in Political Science.

Grant receives award from Bluegrass Music Group

By Pete Wilson
The Valliant Leader

Longtime southeast Oklahoma bluegrass music singer/songwriter Bill Grant joined a select group on September 28 when he was presented the International Bluegrass Music Association's (IBMA) Distinguished Achievement Award for his contributions and pioneering efforts on behalf of bluegrass music.

Grant is the founder of Bill Grant's Bluegrass Festival at Hugo, which became one of the largest and most successful bluegrass festivals west of the Mississippi. Grant and his singing partner, Delia Bell, were long regarded among the best male-female duets in bluegrass music. Grant is known for his inimitable singing style, unique mandolin playing and skill as a songwriter.

The Distinguished Achievement Award is one of IBMA's most prestigious honors. The award was established in 1986



to honor those who have proven to be forerunners in their particular field of endeavor, and/or those who fostered bluegrass music's image with developments that will broaden the music's recognition and accessibility. Recipients of the award are voted the honor by their peers in the music business. The

eventual winners are gleaned from recommendations from IBMA's 2500 members worldwide and reviewed by a special awards committee appointed by the organization's board of directors.

In previous years, the award has been presented to such notables as Bill Monroe, Tom T.

Hall, The Louvin Brothers, Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs and others. There are generally five Distinguished Achievement Awards presented each year. This year's winners include Grant, Fred Bartenstein, The Boys from Indiana, Ronnie Reno, and The Whites.

Grant will be presented the award at a special awards luncheon during IBMA's annual World of Bluegrass events at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville. The presentation of the award will be acknowledged that night during the broadcast of the International Bluegrass Music Awards show.

For the past several years, Grant has served as executive director of Kiamichi Country, an organization promoting the tourism and recreation industry in southeast Oklahoma. He and his wife, Barbara, the site director for the Choctaw Nation's Wheelock Academy near Millerton, make their home at Hugo.

Walker, Ratliff awarded Inter-Tribal Scholarships

Each year, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes awards two students from each of the five tribes a \$300 scholarship. The Choctaw Nation’s top male student is Weston Walker and the top female student is Johnna Ratliff.

Weston is a graduate from Panama High School. Weston is a member of the National Honor Society. He also is very active in many other groups such as varsity football captain, varsity power-lifting captain,

Upward Bound Math/Science, Youth Alive Vice President and Junior and Senior Class Activities Committee Chairman, Boy Scouts of America and his local church group. Weston plans to attend the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith. He will study in the field of Education Psychology. He has a strong desire to become part of the solution for fighting the war on drug abuse while encouraging a student’s ability to learn. He has also been selected to receive a scholarship

from the Office of Technology through the Choctaw Nation. He is the son of Paul and Sherry Walker.

Johnna is a graduate from Hartshorne High School. Johnna has such honors as Principal’s Honor Roll, Superintendent’s Honor Roll, National Honor Roll, Oklahoma Honor Roll, National Honor Society, Oklahoma Indian Honor Society, Who’s Who Among American High School Students, Academic Award for maintaining high

gpa 2004-05, and Pin Award for Top gpa in several subjects. She is also active in many extracurricular activities such as Student Council President, Class President, two years Girl’s State Delegate served as State House of Representatives’ Page, FFA and Cheerleading Captain. Johnna plans on attending college to study pre-med or education. She has presently been accepted at OSU, EOSC, and UCO. She is the daughter of Gwenda Jernigan and Johnny Ratliff.

SOSU music student provides inspiration

By Harold Harmon
The Magnolia, Summer 2006

Sarah Michelle Getto is a 22-year-old junior from Norman, majoring in music education at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She recently took third place in the 2006 Billboard Magazine International Songwriting Competition, which means she beat out 59,997 of 60,000 entries in the 13th annual worldwide contest. She has also performed with the Oak Ridge Boys for an audience of 30,000. Last year, Sarah received two honorable mentions in the VH1 “Song of the Year” national competition. Getto’s entry was a song titled “Soak It.” It was an instrumental. She wrote the music, played all the instruments and recorded it herself. The instruments involved were drums, piano, organ, string section and bass.

Many composers are working this way now, but there is one difference. Sarah was born blind. The Ponca City native was mainstreamed through Norman Public Schools, where she learned Braille. Her dad played the piano, and she was fascinated by music from the beginning. She has been inspired by music educators all of her life. She has perfect pitch, began teaching herself to play the piano at age three and picked up the violin at age 10. She could hear music on the radio or TV and pick it out on the piano. She started composing music at age 11. She developed a love of all types of music. In high school, she sang in the choir and played violin in the orchestra. At night she would write pop and country songs, performing them as often as she could.

Technology has played a tremendous role in her college education. She is learning to use a computer to transfer printed music to Braille, and that takes up most of her spare time. She hopes to use any money she can earn writing or performing to help her afford the equipment she will need now and in the future to realize her dream of becoming a music educator. She graduated from high school with a 4.0 grade point average and has maintained that, except for one B, throughout college. Sarah’s elementary and high school teachers took special care to help her find her place in the



sighted world.

Her parents, Mike and Pat Getto, were concerned about that special help continuing in college. “Without exception,” Pat said, “Every one of Sarah’ professors has stepped up to the challenge of adapting, if needed, to integrate our daughter into their classrooms. Everyone at SOSU is committed to providing Sarah with the tools she needed to become a music educator.”

As a Southeastern freshman, Sarah was introduced to opera. She placed first in the state at the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)

competition, a remarkable accomplishment and a tribute to vocal coach Betty Wintle. After placing first in the NATS competition, Sarah was recruited by Oklahoma City University, considered to be one of Oklahoma’s finest and most prestigious music schools. She chose to stay at Southeastern.

“The education I am receiving at SOSU is awesome,” Sarah said. “I thought about attending a larger university, but after meeting and talking with the faculty, I knew Southeastern Oklahoma State University was the place for me.

“My professors are not only highly skilled, caring educators, but they are fine musicians and composers as well. Each and every one of them is providing me with the skills and knowledge to make me a better performer and songwriter. I’m thrilled to be able to work with not only the faculty here, but also visiting musicians and composers from around the world.

“I am so glad I came to school here.”

She is a member of Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society and Alpha Chi. Sarah made the choice of Southeastern over the University of Oklahoma. Sarah had a friend who attended SOSU and that contributed to her decision. Her goal is to become an elementary music educator. She did her first practice teaching at Northwest Heights Elementary School in Durant and went home truly excited.

“Mom,” Sarah said, “I know even more-so now that this is what I want. It was just so much fun.”

Mrs. Fort Smith

Barbee (Thorpe) Davis will be representing Fort Smith in the next Mrs. Arkansas pageant. She has received her master’s and is currently working as a consultant licensed psychologist working on her doctorate at the University of Arkansas. Her husband is Rick Davis and children, Stash and Jagger Kuylzandal, and stepson, Ricky Davis. Her parents are Jay and Diana Thorpe of Fort Smith.



Moore is University of Lawton graduate

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Hiyadeja R. Moore who graduated from Cameron University in Lawton with a Master of Arts in Teaching in May. Hiyadeja is currently working for Lawton Public Schools as a special education teacher, also as the assistant softball coach at Tomlinson Middle School and assistant basketball coach at Eisenhower High School.

Tullius earns master’s

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Jessica Leigh Tullius. She graduated from the Seattle Institute of Oriental Medicine with a Master’s Degree in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine in August.

Alexander B. Hamilton – Lighthouseman

By Charles H. Cowles
McAlester News Capital
March 1935

Alexander Blackburn Hamilton, great-grandson of Alexander Hamilton, first secretary of the treasury, who ranked with Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson as one of our greatest Americans of that day, is spending the evening of an eventful life, filled with hardships and thrills, in a modest home at Indianola. Shortly after the Custer massacre he looked over the battlefield. Mr. Hamilton was a member of the Lighthorse of the Choctaw Nation for 20 years or more.

For 60 years he had had a billfold that was carried through the War of the Revolution by his famous ancestor, who might have been president but for the fact that he was not born in the United States. He was from Scotch-Irish parentage and first saw the light of day in the West Indies.

His son was named William Alexander Hamilton and the father of the Indianola man was named Alexander Hamilton, just as he was.

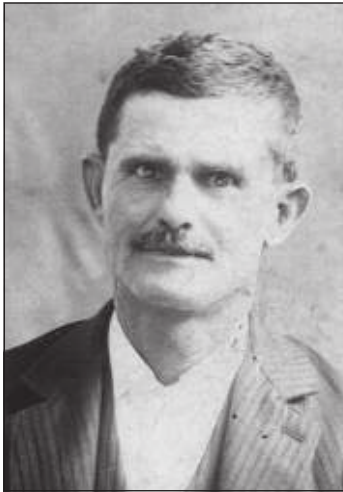
Mr. Hamilton never saw his grandfather. He lived in Tennessee. His father came to Missouri and married there.

Mr. Hamilton was born at Marshall, Saline County, Missouri, and he will be 80 years years of age April 28 (1935). He has lived in Indian Territory all his life except for about 14 years.

His parents left Missouri during the Civil War and lived at Quitman, Wood County, Texas, as refugees. His father was too old for service and died in 1863 when the Indianola man was eight years of age. Three older brothers served, all going from Texas, and one was killed in battle.

“I was practically reared just west of Durant,” says Mr. Hamilton. “My mother started back to Missouri at the close of the war. The old stage line from Fort Smith to Sherman went just west of where the town is now located. My mother was a good cook and she stopped there to help a woman cook for a stage company that was stationed there. I had a brother and sister younger than myself and an older sister was married and lived in Texas. All are dead but me.

“When I was 18 I went back to Texas to visit my sister and while there I went to work for a cattleman named Burr Yarber in Montague County. I worked for him from 1873 to 1876. His son



was captain of the Texas Rangers. In 1876 we went to Fort Custer to carry some cattle which the government had bought. It had been agreed that a pal of mine and myself would be through when we delivered the cattle and it was our plan to go to Broken, over here in what is now Haskell County, as my friend had a cousin there and he was going to settle an estate. I had been his buddy for three years. We decided to change our plans temporarily and go through Yellowstone

Park. We put our horses in pasture and went through the park by wagon. It took 40 days to go through. It was six miles wide and 90 miles long.

“There we heard of the massacre of Custer and his force and we hurried back. We saw the battleground. We saw where they had buried the soldiers and there were dead Indians lying all around on the ground. An officer named Johnson had charge of the fort, having come from the North Platte and taken command. He had three scouts – Buffalo Bill Cody, Sierra Jack and “Red” Thomas – and 1,000 men. ...

Mr. Hamilton treasures a rifle ball and an arrowhead which he picked up on the Custer battlefield.

“After we left Fort Custer the second time, we came down straight through this country. We had a geographical map, compass and spyglass, that we got in Yellowstone Park.

“We came on to Broken. My buddy settled up the estate and I returned to Durant,” he said.

He was married there in 1875 to Miss Lou Perkins. They lived there two years and then removed to the Indianola section. She died in 1890.

“I haven’t lived more than 10 miles from Indianola since 1877,” he says. “There is more land in cultivation in one field here now than there was then in this whose country between Scipio and Gallup Creek.”

He was married again at Indianola to Miss Lillie Reynolds. For many years he farmed and raised stock. He would go to Mississippi about Christmas time and buy stock and keep them until spring, when he would ship them to John Lovelady, who had a big syndicate ranch in Hereford, Texas. This piece of land was given to the English government in return for building the capitol.



Alma “Jo” Moore, a descendant of Hamilton, met and visited with Chief Greg Pyle during a Choctaw community gathering in Amarillo.

Alexander Blackburn Hamilton II was a Lighthouseman for the Choctaw Nation. He was the son of Alexander B. Hamilton I and Luticia C. Weller. He was also a descendant of Alexander Blackburn Hamilton, the first Secretary Treasurer of the United States.

Alexander Blackburn Hamilton II, Lighthouseman, was appointed to the position for the Choctaw Nation by Jackson McCurtain, Chief of the Choctaw Nation. Lighthouseman Hamilton served in this capacity for about 20 years. He was born at Marshall, Salina County, Missouri, April 28, 1855, and died at Indianola, Oklahoma, on April 17, 1936. He was buried at Choate Prairie Cemetery. He lived in Indian Territory and Oklahoma most of his life with the exception of about 14 years.

While in the Choctaw Nation, he met and married Mary Louisa Perkins, a Choctaw, on June 3, 1875, in Durant, Blue County, Choctaw Nation. She was born April 30, 1856, and died April 10, 1900. Her parents were George and Jane Wade Gerrod Folsom Perkins. George Perkins served as a Choctaw Officer. He was the son of David and Elsie Folsom Perkins. Elsie’s father was Nathaniel Folsom, who was called “the father of all Folsoms.” Jane Wade Gerrod Folsom Perkins was the daughter of Simon and Gincy Wade.

Louisa and A.B. Hamilton had five children that grew to adulthood. They were Alexander B. Hamilton III, Walter Hamilton, Janie Hamilton Brown, Elsa Hamilton Alley and Frances Hamilton Moore Mitchell. Minnie Hamilton was three when she died and a child died at birth.

Alexander B. Hamilton was married to Lillie Reynolds after Louisa’s death and they had four children, Paul Hamilton, Nellie Hamilton Sherrills, Opal Hamilton Caves and Jewel Hamilton Johnson. From both of these marriages, there are many descendants.

Bryan County native makes his mark in the world

By Trisha Klement and Bill “Castle” Hudson
KLBC Buzz, May 2006

In the mid-1940s, a group of brave students at Chilocco Indian Agricultural School volunteered to serve the United States as soldiers. One of these young men was Bon Impson, an amateur boxer born in Bokchito, Oklahoma. His act of selflessness resulted in a twist of fate that changed his life forever.

Bon was born in 1920, and his father was a full-blood Choctaw while his mother was white with a trace of Indian blood. He attended a Catholic school in Ardmore, Oklahoma, then went to Jones Academy in Hartshorne, Oklahoma, which was at the time an all-boys school.

As a freshman, he transferred to Chilocco Indian Agricultural School, located roughly 100 miles north of Oklahoma City, right on the Oklahoma-Kansas border.

Chilocco was a Native American boarding school established by the government and accepted its first pupils in 1884. The focus of the school was to teach young Native Americans the English language and culture, as well as agricultural and homemaking skills. By the time Bon arrived, the school had flourished and was home to one of the most successful boxing teams in the country.

He went on to box for the school, and also signed up with Chilocco’s National Guard Unit. The monthly stipend was a big incentive, especially during the Depression. He was promoted to sergeant and initially ended his service after three years.

As the war in Europe developed, the Oklahoma National Guard was called to service in 1940. While Impson and the other seniors were not required to serve, their First Sergeant said if they chose to re-enlist they would retain their old rank. The night before enlistments closed, they thought long and hard about their options. Bon stood up and said, “I believe I’ll go down and see the First Sergeant.”

This declaration persuaded the other seniors to follow and they went to re-enlist as members of the C Company, 45th Division of the National Guard. Little did they know what the future had in store for them.

As members of the 45th, Impson and his company trained in the United States at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Camp Barkley, Texas, Fort Devon, Massachusetts, Pine Camp, New York, and Camp Pickett, Virginia. Impson served as an infantry platoon sergeant, and he and the 45th Division landed in Sicily July 10, 1943, after almost three years of training. He initially didn’t fight for long, because after three days of fighting, he was injured in the left shoulder.

“[The bullet in his shoulder] was something that was never removed,” Helen said. “He still has it in today.”

He was sent to North Africa while he recuperated, then joined his company towards the end of the Sicilian Campaign.

On September 10, 1943, C Company landed at Salerno, Italy. The 45th fought its way north in a slow, plodding war of attrition. The top brass decided to land American and British troops at Anzio, 35 miles from Rome and behind the German lines – a move that would result in one of the most controversial battles in World War II.

The beachhead at Anzio never measured more than seven miles deep and was only 12 miles long. All the Allied positions lay within range of German artillery. Bon said he crouched in a shallow fox hole during a relentless barrage when he was struck by an incoming round. Dirt showered him. His men helped him dig out only to discover a gaping leg wound. It was necessary to treat him in the field hospital immediately or he would bleed to death.

The men carried their semi-conscious comrade to a sunken road 100 yards to the rear. A jeep rattled and bounded toward them with no sign of stopping despite their shouts.



One of the men jumped in front of the jeep. The driver dismissed their demand for help, stating he had his own orders.

“One of his friends pulled out his gun and said, ‘You’re going to take him’,” Helen said. “So they put him across the hood and took him to the hospital.”

Once at the field hospital, Bon said he laid behind a curtain in one of the tents. Shelling casualties poured in. He faded in and out of consciousness for days. Once he realized he’d been laid alongside the wounded whom the doctors expected to lose.

But the weather was cold, and the bleeding from his leg stopped. In retrospect, Bon said he doesn’t recall any morphine, or much pain for that matter. Most of all he remembers and treasures the nurses at the Anzio beachhead. One in particular took a special interest in him, continuously offering him liquid to keep him hydrated and nourished. Against all odds, he survived.

From the field hospital, he was moved to an English hospital where his leg was amputated. He came by ship to South Carolina, and then by train to a hospital for amputees near Waco, Texas.

“I didn’t know him at the time, but they said he was very frail,” Helen said.

Bon lost his leg above the knee, which is harder to walk with a prosthesis than below the knee. He received his first prosthetic leg while in the Texas hospital and practiced walking, looking in the shop windows in town. It was then he suggested to the hospital to put mirrors in so patients could watch themselves.

After his release from the hospital, he moved back to Durant, Oklahoma, where his mother lived.

“He and two of his brothers had bought their mother a home,” Helen said. It was located at 1335 N. Sixth Ave., and after she passed away it was decided Bon should get the house.

Bon and one of his brothers, Boyd, moved in the home, and he enrolled in Southeastern Oklahoma State University under the GI Bill. He was also eligible for a new car through veteran’s benefits, but when one was offered to him, he initially refused it.

“There was a man in town in worse condition than Bon,” Helen said. “When the first car came in, they called Bon and he said no, don’t give it to me, give it to the other man.”

He finally got his car, a black Cadillac, which he had to rig to be able to drive with his prosthetic leg.

It was at SOSU that Bon met Helen McQueen, a Durant native that was studying music and English. The car helped win her over.

“He would come by my house and pick me up, since we only had one car,” Helen said. “Oh, my mother just loved him for that!”

Helen and Bon dated and later married, moving into the house on Sixth Street. Boyd was also married, and both couples as well as Bon’s sister, Mary, lived in the three-bedroom house.

Eventually, all of the children moved, with Bon and Helen the last ones to leave. They moved to Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, and both got teaching jobs at Paoli, Oklahoma, Public Schools. The couple later changed jobs, with Helen teaching at Elmore City, Oklahoma, and Bon at Purcell, Oklahoma.

Helen played the piano at Kiwanis meetings and at one meeting the superintendent from Wynnewood, Oklahoma, was in attendance.

“He asked if I would come teach at Wynnewood, and I said only if he hired my husband, too,” Helen said. He agreed.

Bon retired in 1985 from 35 years of teaching social studies and was also the basketball coach for a while. Helen taught various subjects and grades, retiring after 34 years of teaching.

The couple still reside in Wynnewood. Bon, 86, fondly remembers Chilocco and his time spent serving the U.S. Army.



PFC Dannie Churchill Phillips

We would like to acknowledge the graduation of our son, PFC Dannie Churchill Phillips, from Field Artillery School at Fort Sill on August 17. Dan will be serving as a crew member on a Paladin 155 howitzer and will be stationed with the 3rd Calvary in Fort Hood, Texas. Dan is the son of Nancy and stepson of Jan Harkins of Poteau, Oklahoma. His brother, Earl Phillips is currently serving in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Enterprise. Dan has two step-brothers, Wes and Forrest Harkins, both of Oklahoma City. He is the grandson of the late Ella F. Gray Perkins and W.H. Perkins and the great-grandson of original enrollee Mary Gray. Your family is proud of you son. May God bless you and be at your side always. We love you – your momma and family.



PVC Chad Allen

PVC Chad Allen, 20, is a light wheel mechanic assigned to the 404th Aviation Support Battalion of the 4th Infantry Division, based at Ft. Hood, Texas. Private Allen has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and is stationed at Camp Taji, Iraq, 20 miles north of Baghdad. Private Allen attended Hugo Elementary School and is a 2005 graduate of David City, Nebraska. He is the son of Danny Allen of Hugo and Pam Allen of David City and the grandson of the late Kenneth “K.M.” Allen and Kathryn Delores Allen. Private Allen was recently home on two weeks leave, where he was able to spend some time with family and friends.



ADAA Russell A. Rogers

ADAA Russell A. Rogers, U.S. Navy, graduated from Boot Camp at Great Lakes, Illinois, on February 10. In addition to his basic Navy military skills, he has received additional qualifications on the M9 pistol and the M16 rifle. He completed his “A” School training on aircraft mechanics and his “C” School training on F-18 Hornet Power Plant, at Oceana Naval Air Station, Virginia Beach, Virginia, July 6. He is currently assigned to VFA-81, F-18 Hornet Fighter Wing.

Russell was a May 2005 graduate of Clear View High School in League City, Texas. He joined the Navy on the deferred enlistment program on December 13, 2005, to get his desired school. His parents are Reginald Rogers of League City and Terrie Short of Star Harbor, Texas. Russell is a descendant of Nathaniel Folsom. He is the great-grandson of Minnie Burke-Rogers and the great-great-grandson of Lucinda Hampton-Burke, both original enrollees.

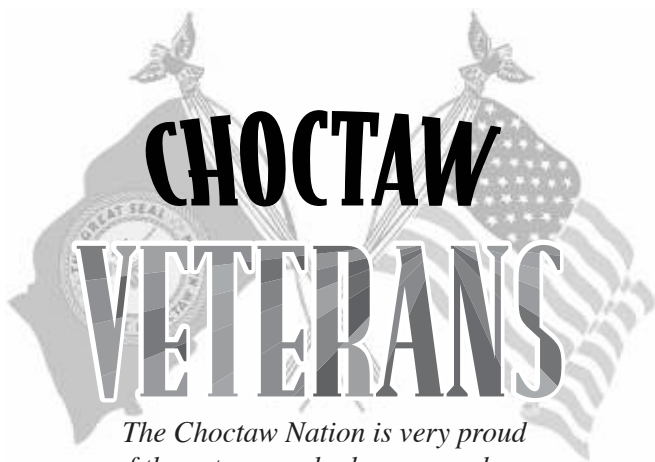


Airman Basic Michael Urrutia Jr.

Airman Basic Michael Urrutia Jr. was the only Choctaw tribal member among the July 29, 2006, graduating class at Lackland Air Force Base. Urrutia will be a member of Security Forces. His proud parents are Regina Onarsee and Michael Urrutia. Grandparents include Pete and Dorothy Fish.



ATOKA – Ted LeFlore, Roosevelt Butler, Carl Tucker, Troy Smith, Rayson Nichols, E.J. Johnson, Michael Sexton, Sherman Armstrong, Jack Work, Forrest Calvert, Snake Norman, Jeff Lofton and Curtis Harjo.



The Choctaw Nation is very proud of the veterans who have served our country. As a show of appreciation, a dinner was held in their honor at each center and plaques presented to each.



IDABEL – Creson Watson, Bill Amos, Simon, Amos, Leroy Williston, Jack Touchstone, James McClure, Aaron Lewis, Jerry John, William Jessie, Herbert Jessie, Tom Williston, Caston Wilson, Truman Jefferson, Vernon Johnson, Jimmy Washington, Deroy McKinney, Nathan Holt, Florence Spalding, Louis Clark, Bill Lambert, John Epperson, Charles Roy Harley and Eddison Elliott.



DURANT – Jerry Thompson, Oscar Sutton, Rex Mitchell, James W. Cox, Ollie Wilson, Truman R. Heron, Willie Walley, J.R. Croley, Troy Keithley, Jeremiah Leflore, Ottis Wesley, Paul Price, Gordon Bruce Schulze Jr., Charles Tidwell, David Perriman, Richard Wade, Frank Watson, John Smith, Silas Blaine, Richard Adams, Robert Sanders, Clayburn Elix, Abner “Sonny” Willis, John Henry Choate, Joel Camp, Eudis St. John, Eunie Mintz, Jarvis Johnston, and Terry Cole with Councilman Ted Dosh.



BROKEN BOW – Lawrence Battiest, Lyman Choate, Ruby Choate, Sinaklin Forbit, Randy Jacob, James McKendrick, Silas McKinney, Willis McKinney, Paul Stephan, Newman Tisho, Raymond Touchstone, Randall Watson, Harvey Williams, Mary Williams, Thomas Williston, Joe James and R.J. Frazier; and **BETHEL** – Douglas Bohannon, Richard Herman Blake, Louis Allen Williams and Virgil Samuel.



SMITHVILLE – Kenneth Smith, Magdalene Scott, Z.B. Anderson, Alvin Moore, Wanda Leet, Odell Nichols, Bobby Nichols, Corneal Cusher, Margie Watson, Nathan Watson, Tommy Blake, Kenneth Ludlow, George Watson, Bobby Ludlow, Marvin Going, Eugene Ludlow, Ed Wilson, Leroy Wilson and Councilman Kenny Bryant.



TALIHINA – Sherman Ward, Glenda James, John G. Anderson, Sharon J. Anderson, Virgil Sam, Franch Johnico, Jack Atwood, Harry James, Venson Going, Everett L. Wood, Hiahwahnah R. Neal, J.B. Stockton, Eugene Felker, Carl McIntosh, John W. Emmert, Mark Emmert, Bob Emmert, Marion McCurtain, Ambert McCurtain, Jack England, Daniel L. England, Donald B. England, Roger England, Darryl L. England, Jimmy Miller, Perry Durant, Joe Russell, Allen Dukes, Edward Carter, Wilburn Bacon, Paul Massey, Henryetta Imbese, Walter Dye, Dallas W. Seeley, Danny R. Roberts, Eugene Jones, Marie E. Waggoner, Willie Ward, Jewett Potts, Sampson Moore, Kenneth Winlock, Bobby King, William Grammar, Virgil Marston, Joe O. Jones, Mack Carlile, Nat Marshall, C.J. Perera, James Robinson, Sylvester Moore, Edna Johnico, Suzette Johnico, Hagen Collins, A.C. Ritter and Don Lanning.



CROWDER – Martin L. Killingsworth, Edward Smith, Lloyd B. Morris, Walter Phelps, Bill Scherman, John Holland, Eddy Barker, Troy L. Smith, Pete Autrey, Jerry Feck and Arnold King, pictured with Councilman James Frazier.



HUGO – Archie Southard, Jack Rosenthal, Don M. Loman, R.W. Nored, David Wilkie, James Terry, Bobby Bell, Larry Battiest, David Hunter, Johnnie Stell, J.D. Carter, George Robison, Larry Wilson, Alto Battiest, Henry Rodrigues, Juanita Bailey, John Hampton, Iscae J. Simpson, E.D. “Dutch” Crews, Pete Noah, Arnett Roberts, Lynn Abernathy and Loren Wayne Hudson.



SPIRO – Bill Coleman Sr., Joe Parish, John T. Adams, Grady Adam, Thurman Moore, Carson Harris, Joe Randall, Gene Sockey, Howard Bryant, Malcolm Stephens, Milton Stephens, Charles Stephens, Leon Mize, Jim Fry, Bill Coleman Jr. and Tom Pat Swafford, pictured with Councilpersons Charlotte Jackson and Delton Cox.



WRIGHT CITY – Benny Ray Austin, Cyrus Battiest Jr., Luther Battiest, Presley Battiest, Ryman Battiest, Daniel Herndon, Leila Jefferson, Frank Nahwooksy, William Myers, Elias Roberts, Abner N. Taylor, Albert Tom Jr., Jonas James, Cecil D. Tom, Willis Maytubby, Leon Wesley, Larry Wesley, Johnny Wilson, Jack Whisenhunt, David Davis and Angus Williston.



POTEAU – Ray Baldwin, Robert Hair, William Free, Robert Taylor, Eric Willis, Robert Lynn White, Calvin Billy, Wayne Ballew, Jay Burnett, Harold Hansen, Bill Hardin, Phillip James, Curtis Loyd, Odis Luman and Aure Thrift.



STIGLER – Albert Perry, Bert Perry, Gerald Perry, Jerry Perry, Eugene Branham, Julius Morris, William Martin, Bill Townley, Jerry Johnson, Dixon Lewis Jr., Bill Cummings, Larry Franklin, Lawrance McCann, Joe Wilson, Leon Bohanan, Pat Rose, Don McAlvain, Don Busse, Wendell Dennis, Hershel Prentice and Thomas Cooper.

COALGATE – Reuben Burge, Ellis Carnes, Evelyn Guffey, Nellie Hunter, Arvard McLellan, Julian Yother, Rodger McAnally, Harold Mitchell, Edward Mayer, Thomas Cosper, Floyd Smith, Jesse Frederick, Joe Dewey Miller, Ward Morrison and Jerry Nanney.

MALESTER – Melvin Alberson, Walter Amos, William Joe Amos Jr., Thomas W. Anderson, Curtis Franklin Baker, Alvie Carney, Eastman Clemons, Tex Cope, Harlo Price Cunningham, Frank Ralph Cuzalina Jr., Jimmie Ellis Dunn, Calvin Eugene Durant, Louis G. Ellison, Dewitt Leon Farrell, Earl Folsom, Roy Marion Folsom, Norman Ray Fry, Billy Gene Gibson, James Edwin Green, Jack Haynes, Thomas Lee Hendrix, Cordell Henry, William King, Sampson King, Delbert Hotubbee, Kenneth Hotubbee, Larry James, Randolph Jefferson, Otis Jefferson, Johnny Jones Jr., Raphael W. Jones, Matthew Kemp, Osborne Kenieutubbee, Kenneth G. Majors, William Loyd Moore, Joe D. Mullins, Charles J. O’Leary, Thurman Pitchlynn, Louie Sam, Emanuel Sexton, Ronnie Lee Sillmon, Eugene J. Sweet, Cleveland Sweet, Carl Tannehill, Raymond Taylor, Lake Ed Wiman, Forrest Cross, Charles Lester, Bill Richardson, Robert Warren, James Aston, William Billy, Harold Brock, Tommy R. Crone, Zachary Lewis, Ronald Love and Councilman Bob Pate.

WILBURTON – Marvin Ginn, James Noley, Jerry Noley, Homer Noley, Cornelias Sam, Charles Swafford, Glen W. Boerner, Herald Jack Ray, Wayne Scott, Leonard Draper, Cecil Watson, Shirley A. Stallaby Mantaghi, Sequoyah Roberts, Alford Harley, McKinley Taylor Jr., Bobby White, Ray White and John Hart.

Memorial is outstanding tribute to veterans

A Choctaw veteran, retired Col. Frank Plummer, spends his days pursuing a passion that not only honors veterans, but provides an excellent educational opportunity for adults and students.

The Veterans War Memorial of Texas is located on a 3.5-acre complex in McAllen and is encircled by five war sites: WWI, WWII, Korean, Vietnam and All Wars. Each site has eight granite walls which will have stories that contain information on that particular war.

Twenty projectors are extended from the ceiling, shooting words on the wall – contemporary stories of the time with animation and photos.

“Everything we have at the memorial has a story about it,” said Plummer. “Ninety-eight percent is educational. Every year we max out on the number of school trips scheduled and have to turn many down.”

Among the upcoming projects is a wall listing all veterans from American Indian tribes who were killed in action.

The newest additions to the memorial – two 7-foot bronze statues honoring the WWII Wacs and Navy Waves – will be dedicated during a two-day ceremony November 10-11. Approximately 3,500 children will be bused in to attend the dedication on November 10, while close to 2,000 people are expected on November 11.

“We want to let veterans know that we remember,” said Plummer. “We support you and we aren’t going to forget.”

The memorial is located at 29th Street and Galveston.



Choctaw Nation GED CLASSES

BRYAN COUNTY

Beginning October 23, 2006
Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex
16th & Locust St., Durant, Oklahoma
(south building, downstairs)



PITTSBURG COUNTY

Beginning October 23, 2006
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
EOSC Campus
1802 E. College Ave., McAlester, Oklahoma



HASKELL COUNTY

Beginning October 24, 2006
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
Hwy 82 South, Stigler, Oklahoma



McCURTAIN COUNTY

Beginning October 24, 2006
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
SOSU McCurtain County Campus
(former E.T. Dunlap)
Idabel, Oklahoma

The class will meet 2 days each week for approximately 3 months. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 (per day) transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Linda Tyler or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Chief Greg Pyle congratulate Payton Brewer, a junior at Savanna High School. Payton was named All Around Cowboy at the Oklahoma Jr. Rodeo Association Rodeo, as well as being the Champion Calf Roper.



District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard and Chief Greg Pyle present Farris School Superintendent Gary McDonald with a check for \$2,500 to aid in purchasing playground equipment for the school in rural Atoka County.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

November 1: Poteau (A-L) 9-2 (warehouse closed for site)
November 7: Idabel 9-11; Broken Bow 12-2 (warehouse closed for site)
November 9: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2(warehouse closed for site)
November 10: Tribal Holiday
November 14: Poteau (M-Z) 9-2 (warehouse closed for site)
November 23-24: Tribal Holidays
November 29-30: Closed for Inventory
Warehouse open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Nov. 2, 3, 6, 8, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 27, 28 and from 9 a.m.-12 noon on Nov. 22

DURANT

November 10: Tribal Holiday
November 23-24: Tribal Holidays
November 29-30: Closed for Inventory
Warehouse open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 27, 28 and from 9 a.m.-12 noon on Nov. 22

McALESTER

November 2: Stigler 9-12 (warehouse closed for site)
November 10: Tribal Holiday
November 23-24: Tribal Holidays
November 29-30: Closed for Inventory
Warehouse open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Nov. 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 27, 28 and from 9 a.m.-12 noon on Nov. 22

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday thru Friday
We will take lunch from 11:30 to 12 noon
WAREHOUSES

Antlers: Choctaw Community, 306 S.W. "O" St., 580-298-6443
Durant: Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
McAlester: Warehouse, 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

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

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



Summer Youth Leadership conference recently had a private tour of the State Capitol. Rep. Lisa J. Billy, also provided a motivational talk with the youth leaders. A big thank you to Rebecca Clapp for bringing the youth.

District 9 senior citizens take trip to Denison

There's much discussion on the difference in today's teenagers and those 50 or so years ago. Take notice! There is also a difference in the senior adults of today. We are fun-loving, young at heart, and eager to learn. No matter how we may feel and regardless of our handicaps we don our sun visor and glasses, latch on to our cane and walker at every opportunity to take a trip that will broaden our mind. We learn of our cultural roots, we sample different ethnic foods, we visit historical sights, refreshing our memory on the history of our nation, and enjoy the beauty of nature, God's wonderful creation. Our latest adventure was a visit to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's birthplace in Denison, Texas. This was mostly a refresher course since we had lived and experienced the same era, and are familiar with the architecture, household appliances, utensils, etc. The 32 seniors on this trip enjoyed a lunch at Jones Bar-B-Q where we had a choice of roast, ribs, or turkey. The Choctaw Nation furnished the bus and an excellent driver which we appreciate very much. He drove the long way home which was the scenic route over the Denison Dam on Lake Texoma. I wouldn't be afraid to bet that everyone had a good day.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

NOVEMBER

2006

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

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.



Choctaw Office Solutions

A Division of Choctaw Archiving

OFFICE PRODUCTS & SUPPLIES

Authorized Federal Supply Schedule Catalog

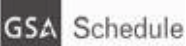
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ALL NON-FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CUSTOMERS

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Choctaw Nation All-Indian Rodeo Association

WORLD FINALS • NOV. 3-4-5, 2006

CHOCTAW COLISEUM, HWY. 69/75, DURANT, OK

Friday Morning Slack 8:00 a.m.

Friday & Saturday Performances 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Short Go 1:00 p.m.

Admission: \$7.00 Adults, \$5.00 for Children 4 to 12, Free for Children 3 and Under

GREAT PRIZES INCLUDE:

\$5,000 Added Money in each event (\$10,000 per team roping)

\$1,000 Added Money for Jr. Events

Belt Buckles and Saddles will be given away in each event

The Top All-Around Cowboy or Cowgirl will receive a 2-horse trailer

Anyone with a CDIB (or proof of membership in a federally recognized Indian Tribe) may participate. Entry fees postmarked by 10-23-06 will be \$200 for all events (\$400 per team for team roping) & \$50 for Jr. events. A \$50 fee (\$25 for Jr. events) will be added for late entries.

To receive an entry form or for more information, contact the Choctaw Coliseum at 580-931-8645 or www.choctawcoliseum.com

EVENTS INCLUDE:

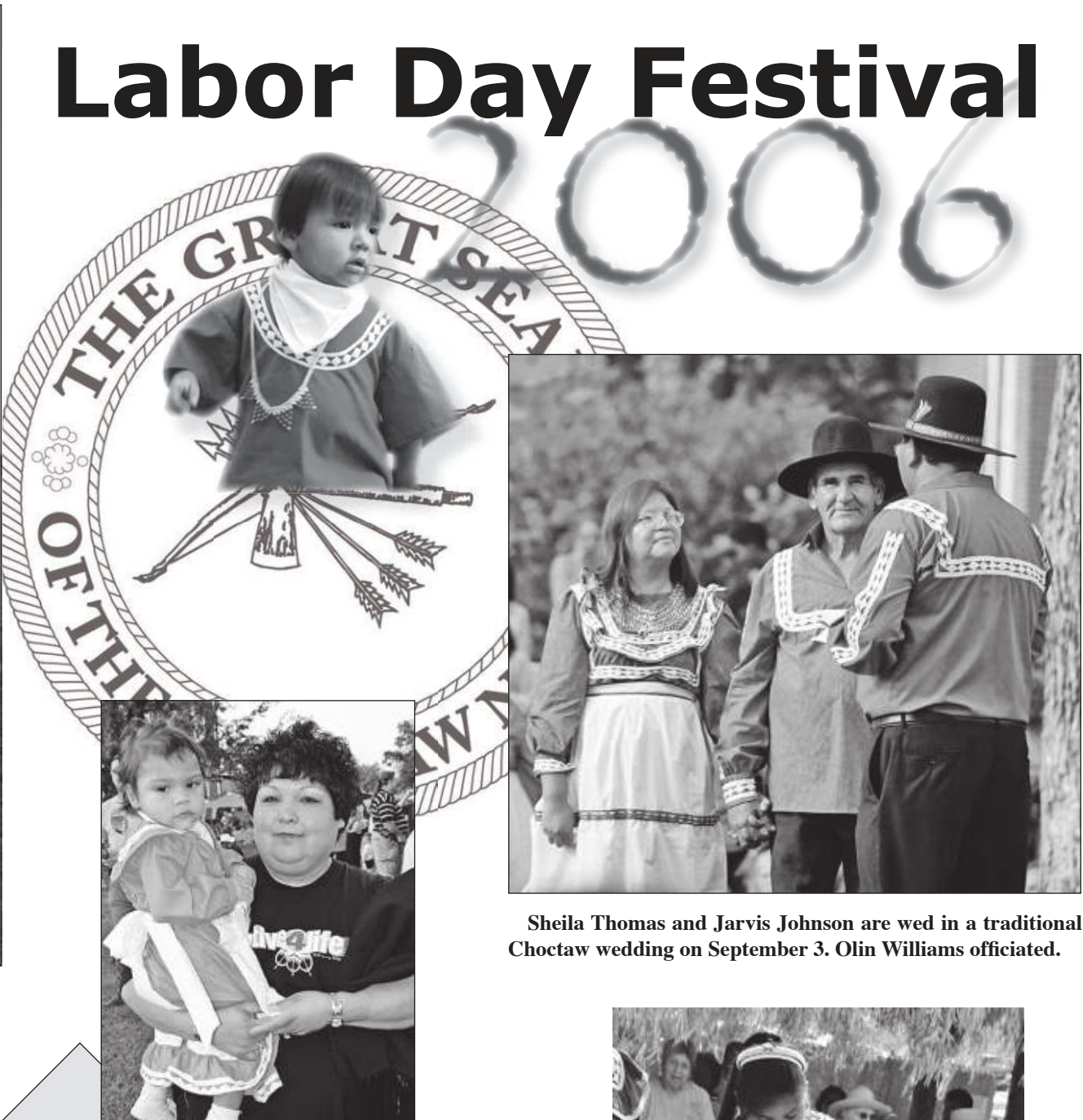
Calf Roping
Steer Wrestling
Barrel Racing
Breakaway Roping
Bareback
Saddle Bronc
Bull Riding
Team Roping
Jr. Steer Riding
Jr. Barrels

(Jr. events are for contestants 14 years of age and under)

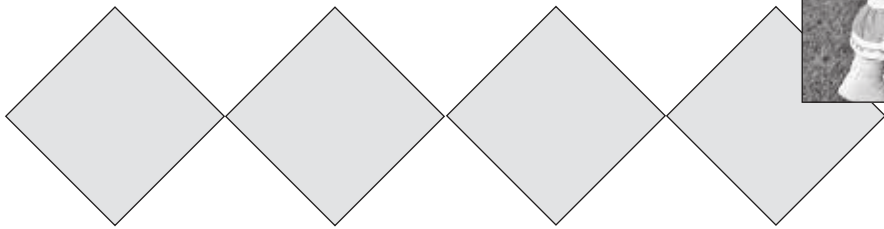




Coby Lehman and Gordon Roy.



Sheila Thomas and Jarvis Johnson are wed in a traditional Choctaw wedding on September 3. Olin Williams officiated.



Ariana Byington with her aunt, Wynona.



Council Speaker Mike Amos and Chief Greg Pyle get ready for Grand Entry.



Roger Amerman, pictured with his mother, Harriet Amerman, won "Best of Show" for his beautiful beadwork.



Marni Billy and Ishta Holitopa Jefferson are ready to dance.



Pictured in front of one of the museum's beautiful murals are Executive Director of Education Joy Culbreath and Language Instructor Teresa Billy, in front, and Councilpersons Anthony Dillard, Charlotte Jackson, Ted Dosh, Delton Cox, Joe Coley, Jack Austin, Perry Thompson, James Frazier, Mike Amos and Kenny Bryant and Language Director Terry Ragan. The museum is located in the Capitol Building at Tushka Homma.



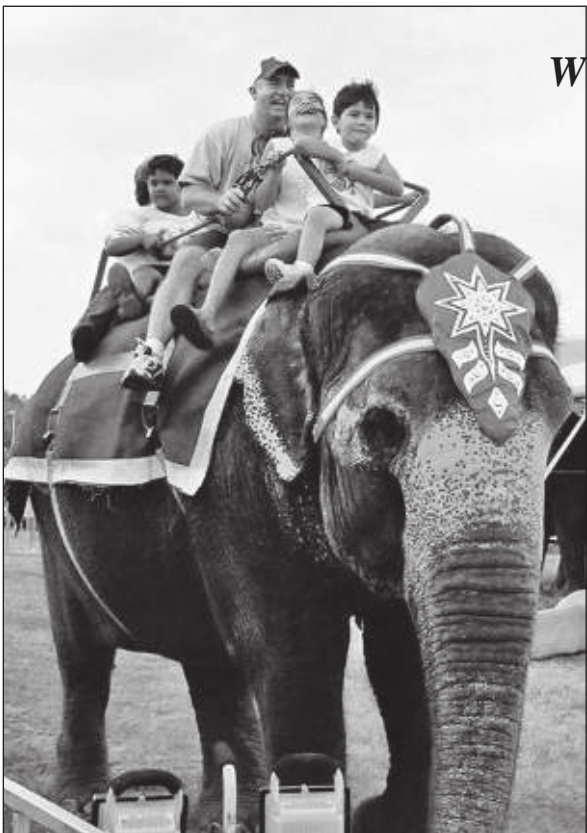
Chief Pyle shakes the hand of Army Specialist Lyndon McKinney Jr., 21, of Watson, Oklahoma. McKinney left Ft. Sill for Iraq this month.



Shelby and Dolly Christie of Clover, California, meet Chief Pyle.



Niigan Sunray and brother TDo-hasan Sunray.



What fun!



The audience joins in the animation with storyteller Tim Tingle.

And the winners are...



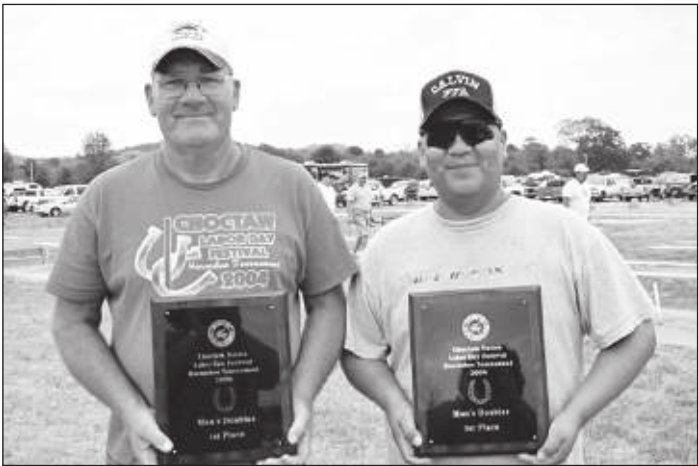
Chief Gregory E. Pyle welcomes Carrie Bohanan of Eagletown to the festival. Carrie is the oldest lady attending the festivities on Monday morning.



Cecil Spring of Mena, Arkansas, was presented a medal by Chief Pyle for being the oldest male in attendance on Monday.



Jal Lewiston was awarded for traveling the farthest – from Anchorage, Alaska.



Horseshoe men's doubles, first place, Jr. Hill and Bunky Impson. Bunky was also men's ringer champ.



Horseshoe men's doubles, second place, Charles Elk and Donald Blackbird.



Horseshoe men's doubles, third place, Danny Adams and Lasley McIntosh.

Quilt Show
Machine

First: Shavannah Short; Second: Janis McKinney

Hand Stitch

First: Betty Tinney; Second & Third: Phyllis Baldwin

Machine & Hand

First: Millie Obe; Second: Sammie Thompson;
Third: Rebecca Layous



Choctaw Combine strong men are Ray Gurley, second; Nick Whitman, first; and Andrew Cossey, third.



Best Dressed Terrapin

3-4 years: Quartermain Briggs, 4, of Nashoba
5-7 years: Nayukpa Ramsey, 5, of McAlester
8-12 years: Bobbie Bolding, 11, of Achille

Terrapin Races

3-4 years: First, Addisyn Lebeau, 3, Tahlequah; second, Quartermain Briggs, 4, Nashoba; third: Blayden Foster, 4, Duncan
5-7 years: First, Kyra Hornbuckle, 6, Poteau; second, Jody Trusty, 7, Wright City; third, Nayukpa Ramsey, 5, McAlester
8-12 years: First, Roderick Hornbuckle, 9, Poteau; second, Joseph Thompson, 8, of Hugo; third, Brooke Trusty, 8, Wright City



Horseshoe men's singles – Wilson Oosahwe, second; Danny Adams, first; and Charles Elk, third.



Horseshoe women's singles – Shelly Caldwell, second; Phyllis Bohanan, first; and Caludia Hodge, third.



Horseshoe women's doubles, first place, Ava Hilton and Phyllis Bohanan. Phyllis was also the ringer champion.



Horseshoe women's doubles, second place, Audrey Jefferson and Sue Tait.



Tough Tough Choctaw are Andrew Cossey, second; David Ralston, first; and Fighting Heart Award, Justin Kirkes.



Checker winners Sylvester Moore, second place, and Mark Savage, first place.



Winners in the youth division of the checker tournament are Toby Amox, first, and Tyler Rector, second.



Domino champions are Rickey Moon, first, and Sylvester Moore, second.



Youth domino champions are Jessica Boyd, first, and Kasandra Sears, second.



Overall winners of the 5k, Chase McMichael, Caddo, and Robin Ray, McAlester, are pictured with Chief Pyle.



The tribe gave away two vehicles as door prizes – Taking home the new yellow Chevrolet Cobalt was Sue Tepfer of Keota, pictured, and Jack Westmoreland of Boswell was handed the keys to the orange Cobalt.



Volleyball champions are the the Dog Soldiers of Okmulgee: Ethan Bell, Roger Bell, Denise Honawa, Mellisa Culley, Brian Culley, Lori Hamilton, Byron Proctor, Teata Foreman and Bubba Deere.



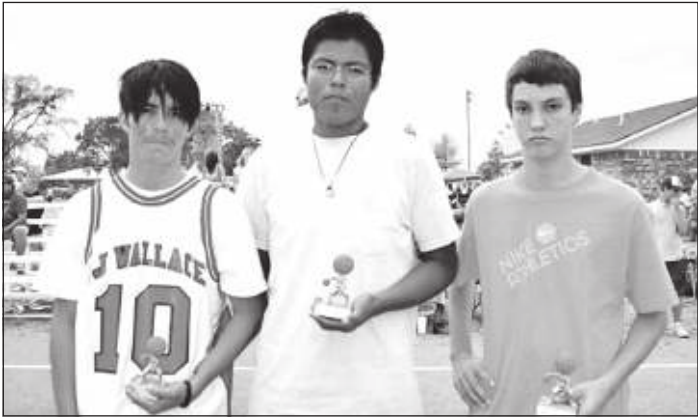
The Sun Devils of Ada won second place in the volleyball tournament. They are Randell Hicks, Russell Lowe, Ryan Hicks, Matt Chamberlin, Debbie Jimboy, Jesse Jimboy, Tarra Jimboy and Patty Proctor.



Free throw contest winners, age 10-12: Kelly Anderson, second; Tanner Gwin, first; and Cade Clay, third. Winners in the 6-9 age division, not pictured, are Connor Hamilton, first; Alex Steve, second; and Kalyn Bacon, third.



Free throw contest winners, age 13-14: Derek James, first; Brandon Health, second; and Kyle McKinney, third.



Free throw contest winners, age 15-18: C.J. Wallace, second; Nick Haiakanubbe, first; and Jordan Young, third.



Drillers of Prague won first place in the 3 on 3 basketball tournament, age 10-13: Tim Hauck, Darnell Embry, Clint Simek, Cherelle Embry, Corbin Coker and Blake Hightower, coach.



Hot Shots of Talihina, second place in the 3 on 3, age 10-13: Josh James, Landry James, Cortney Williams, Clark Austin and Tyler Ward.



Red Hoops of Ada claimed the first place trophy in 3 on 3, age 14-18: Jordan Parnacher, Dakota Roebuck, Mark Ernst and Trev Jimboy.



Second place in 3 on 3, age 14-18 – Silver Creek: Aaron Cobb, Kelly Cobb, Lane Axton and Colton Billy.



Third place in 3 on 3, age 14-18 – Achille: J.R. Moody, Kelly Johnson, Kolby Johnson and Ben Robison.



Special gift for Chief Greg Pyle during an Appreciation Dinner at Poteau was a stickball outfit. Councilman Delton Cox and wife Deloris helped the Chief tie it on.



The center is full at Poteau.



Chief Pyle welcomes Juanita Cox, left, widow of former Councilman Dale Cox, and above, Christine Harris.



Gary Batton, Executive Director of Choctaw Nation Health Services, visits at Poteau with Dora Hanson and niece Connie Veer Camp.

Third Annual Choctaw Nation Art Show Winners

Best of Show: “Sacred Legacy” by Roger Amerman.

People’s Choice Award: J. Thompson.

Heritage Awards: “Replica of Choctaw Trail of Tears Coil Bowl,” Edmond Perkins; “Trail of Tears,” Linda

Coursey aka John Law; “Sacred Legacy,” Roger Amerman; “The Beauty Way,” Karen Clarkson; “Bull Nose Basket,” Mary Jo Cook.

Paintings: 1st, “Trail of Tears,” Linda Coursey aka John Law, Detroit, Texas; 2nd,

“Our Pride,” Karen Clarkson, San Leandro, California; 3rd, “Pounding Corn,” Gwen Coleman Lester, Claremore; Honorable Mention, “Amazing Grace,” Gwen Coleman Lester, Claremore.

Graphics: 1st, “Symbol of

Proud Despair,” Jane Semple Umsted, Durant; 2nd, “Generations,” Paul King, Tulsa; 3rd, “Listening to Choctaw Tales,” Lisa Aaron, Broken Bow; Honorable Mention, “Little Red Choctaw Dress,” Janice Bohannon, Princeton, Texas.

Sculpture: 1st, “The Return II,” Lyman Choate, Broken Bow; 2nd, “Players,” George Willis, Carlsbad, California; 3rd, “Battle for Peace,” Colline Brummett, Wewoka; Honorable Mention, “Youth in Motion,” Jane Semple Umsted, Durant.

Pottery: 1st, “Fire Dust,” Linda Bryant, Coalgate; 2nd, “A Matter of Pride,” Lajauanna Stewart, Broken Bow; 3rd, “Stone Polish Bowl,” Edmond Perkins Jr., Atwood; Honorable Mention, “Altered Bottle,” Rebecca Elm, Ada.

Basketry: 1st, “Bull Nose Basket,” Mary Jo Cook, Arlington, Texas; 2nd, “Choctaw Utensil Basket,” Lisabeth Mitchell, Cushing; 3rd, “Warrior Basket,” Mary Jo Cook, Arlington, Texas; Honorable Mention, “Diamond Basket,” Susan Charlesworth, Brownsville, Indiana.

Cultural: 1st, “Eagle and White Wolf,” Lois F. Ingram, Quinlan, Texas; 2nd, “Stickball Sticks and Beaded Seal,” Casey Tsosie, Ada; 3rd, “Lizards Going Home,” Linda Bryant, Ada; Honorable Mention, “Turtle Smoke,” John Johnson White, Wilburton.




Upcoming Events
www.choctawcoliseum.com
1.877.208.7673

1st ANNUAL DAVID BACON
Memorial Roping • October 12-15



October 26 - 29
Thursday, Oct. 26 – Saturday, Oct. 28
Early Show 2 p.m. & Late Show 7 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 29 – 4 p.m.


ALL INDIAN WORLD FINALS
November 3, 4 & 5



Pit Bike National & Freestyle Motorcross Stunt Show
Saturday, November 11th



SECOND ANNUAL POWWOW
November 25th
FREE ADMISSION



December 8, 2006
Tickets on sale now!



December 15, 2006
Tickets go on sale November 1st.



First place in 3 on 3, age 18-35 – Running Skins of Rattan: Chris Thomas, Caleb Taylor, Brian Taylor and Bo Taylor.



Second place in 3 on 3, age 18-35 – Tip Drill of Broken Bow: Rick Young, Bryon Cherry, Oscar Scales and Brandon Hunter.



Third place in 3 on 3, age 18-35 – The Clays, Michael Clay, Kyle Carter, Zack Simmons and Clint Baker.

OBITUARIES

Betty Amos Karr

Betty Amos Karr, 77, a lifelong resident of the McAlester area, passed away August 26, 2006, at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa. Born October 8, 1928, in Krebs, she was the daughter of Jefferson Lee and Angeline Moore Hancock.

She married Robert E. Karr on August 21, 1959, in Wilburton. She worked in food service at Carl Albert Mental Health Center for 11 years then worked as a nutritionist at the OSU Extension office for several years before retiring.

She enjoyed working on arts and crafts and liked to travel as much as possible.

She was a longtime member of the Northgate Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School and devoted many hours of service to the church. She was also a member of the Ohoyohoma Club and was active in the Choctaw Senior Citizens and the Salvation Army Home League Club.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Doyal Hancock, and a sister, Evelyn Hancock.

Survivors include her husband, Robert E. Karr of the home; three sons and daughters-in-law, Earl Steven and Diane Gibson of Indianola, Leslie and Cindy Gibson of Shawnee and Robert Wayne and Tammy Karr of Crowder; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Carol and Frank Crouch of McAlester, Janet and Stuart McPherson of Washington and Angela Woods of McAlester; 14 grandchildren, Sondra Hatcher, Steven Gibson, Lisa Gibson, Les Gibson Jr., Kaya Crouch, Chancellor Crouch, Lyndsey McPherson, Kelsey McPherson, Casten Karr, Kyle Karr, Trey Karr, Ashley Woods, Jody Woods and Cody Woods; six great-grandchildren; two brothers, Walter Amos of McAlester and Solomon Hancock of El Reno; four sisters, Lucille Jameson of Crowder, Virginia Sam of McAlester, Jean Cameron of McAlester, and Jurline Santine of McAlester and numerous nieces and nephews.

William “Jack” Postoak

William Joseph “Jack” Postoak, 93, of Stratford passed away July 30, 2006, at an Oklahoma City hospital. He was born February 10, 1913, at Stratford to Jim and Mary Willis Postoak. He attended a Catholic school. Mr. Postoak married Ruby Smith on August 21, 1943. She passed away on June 18, 1989, at Oklahoma City.

Mr. Postoak was a construction laborer and a Catholic.

Survivors include ten children, Harvey William Postoak and wife Rosie, Allen, Mary Wise, Shawnee, Wanda Porter, Helen Jackson and husband Ray, all of Ada, Barbara Givens, Arlene Williams, Alice Postoak, Mamie Harjo, all of Oklahoma City, and Eugene Postoak, Laura Nickum, both of Stratford; 37 grandchildren; and 56 great-grandchildren.

Myrtle Mae Nichols Bohanon

Myrtle Mae Nichols Bohanon, “Grandma,” 93, of Oklahoma City passed away August 20, 2006, at her home. Born August 1, 1913, in Atwood, Oklahoma, she was the daughter of George W. and Sally Nichols. She married Robert Lee Bohanon in 1945.

Myrtle had a hard life as her parents died when she was young. Myrtle worked all her life as a cook at various restaurants including the Crosstown Cafe in Oklahoma City for 20 years. She was the best cook for she knew how to make good old-fashioned cooking, including the greatest yeast rolls. At the late age of 75, she learned to crochet and made gifts for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Grandma was still crocheting close to the time of her death. She had a great sense of humor to make us all laugh and lots of stories of the old days. Almost all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren she babysat, for she enjoyed them all. Grandma liked collecting Native American dolls. Her room was decorated with them.

Each time we went over to Grandma’s she’d be sitting in her chair. Now her chair is empty but one day we’ll be reunited and there will be Grandma waiting there in her chair.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Sally Nichols; all of her siblings, Orville, Cecil, Hattie, Charlie Nichols, her husband, Robert Lee Bohanon, and a grandson, Ray Joe Roberts.

Survivors include three children, Sammy Lee Bohanon and daughter-in-law, Joyce, George Robert Bohanon, Alice Darlene Bohanon Dereavn and son-in-law, Wayne; grandchildren, Elisabeth Bohanon, Darlene Bohanon Fields, Katherine Austin, David Allen Huff, George Bohanon Jr., Judson Fanning, Sandra Smith, Curtis Smith and Sammy Smith; great-grandchildren, Christopher Bohanon, Christine Zambino Austin, Cheyenne Fields, Dustin Huff, Angela Austin, Tommy Austin, George Bohanon Jr.’s four children, and soon-to-be-born Nicholas Ryan Austin; a daughter-in-law, Danuta Bohanon; a sister-in-law, Ellen Nichols; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Margarette Gardner Blackwell

Margarette Gardner Blackwell, 91, passed away August 14, 2006, in Plano, Texas. She was born September 8, 1914, in Banty to Robert L. and Tassie Hallman Gardner. Being a direct descendant of Jeremiah Gardner, she was proud of her Choctaw heritage.

A resident of the Oklahoma City area since 1963, Margarette attended the Airport Assembly of God and worked as a sales associate at Spartan-Atlantic and TG&Y for numerous years. Dedicating her life to serving her Lord, family and others, Margarette provided a warm and loving home for her family. Her happiest moments were spent with her church and family, especially the grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Brady Lee Gardner; and sisters, Gladys Lindsey, Myrtis Waldrum, Virginia Percell and Bessie Mae Rambo.

Survivors include her son, Larry Blackwell and wife Tammy of Frisco, Texas; brother, Johnnie J. Gardner and wife Lillian of Del City; granddaughters, Lisa Blackwell of Houston, Texas, Emily Blackwell of McKinney, Texas, and Shelby Vaughan of Frisco; grandson, Jason Cooley of Longview, Texas; numerous nieces and nephews. Margarette’s sweet spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Randolph Russell Turner

Randolph Russell Turner, 84, of Roanoke, Virginia, passed away June 1, 2004, at Raleigh Court Health Care Center. The son of Harvey and Lillie Mae Turner, he was born May 8, 1920. He was a veteran of the Armed Forces.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois Ethelene Amos Turner.

Noweta Adams Skinner

Noweta Adams Skinner, 81, of Daingerfield, Texas, passed away July 30, 2006, in Muskogee. She was born August 2, 1924, in Bryan County, Oklahoma. She was a homemaker and co-owner of Skinner Lawn Mower Repair.

She was preceded in death by her husband, H.O. Skinner, on October 13, 2005.

Survivors include her son, Bob Skinner; sister, Lucretia Burkhead; and brother, G.A. Adams.



Doss Franklin Still

Doss Franklin Still passed away September 3, 2006. He was born December 25, 1918, in McAlester, the youngest son of Fannie Elizabeth Holloway Still and Robert Monroe Still.

He received a Bronze Star while stationed in Germany during World War II while serving in the U.S. Army. He retired from Tinker AFB with 31 years of civilian service.

Doss will now be rejoined with his beloved wife of 64 years, Marjorie May. He will always be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather and a great handyman. He could do it all.

Survivors include three daughters, Susan Day of Midwest City, Sandra Skinner of Choctaw, and Nanette Jack of Harrah; three sons, Frank Still of Midwest City, Jack Still of Spencer and Michael Still of Owasso; sons-in-law, Ronald Skinner and Larry Jack, and daughter-in-law, Kristy Still; 13 grandchildren, Cynthia Thompson, Jennifer and Jeff Day, Don and Steven Still, Chadd and Matthew Skinner, Durian Still, Heather Potts and Joshua Jack and Melody, Kristopher and Korey Beth Still; 14 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Bobbie Stark of Oklahoma City.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Mildred Hunt of Oklahoma City, and two brothers, Roy Still of Anaheim, California, and Ross Still of Purcell.

Doss was proud of his family and accomplishments in life while his family enjoyed his wit and humor. He will be missed dearly by all.

Austine Scott

Ruth Austine Phillips passed away at Chico, California, on September 9, 2006. She was born April 20, 1929, at Idabel, the daughter of Yell Austin Phillips and Toru Orvetta Wilson. Her maternal grandparents were Raphael Franklin Wilson and Emma Jane Bohanan. Her paternal grandparents were Benjamin Carson Phillips and Margurite Jane Hastings.

She married Don Scott in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, shortly after her graduation from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. While an undergraduate at Southeastern she was an active participant in student activities including Tribes Council, Student Council and Women’s Athletic Association. She was named to Cardinal Key, Who’s Who on Campus and was listed in Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges 1950-51. Austine was a long-time member of the Choctaw Nation, as are her children. Their lives together took them to various schools in Kansas, Nebraska, New York, California, Minnesota, and back once more to Chico. During this odyssey were born Stephen in Kansas, David in Nebraska and Anna Lynn in Chico.

In addition to her roles of wife, friend, and mother, wherever the family was living she was invariably an active member and officer of numerous organizations including PTA, Columbia Dames, Enloe Hospital Volunteers, Chico State Faculty Wives, and the Discovery Shoppe, of which she was a past president. She also served as president of the Chico State Faculty Wives organization. She was an active member of the congregation of Trinity United Methodist Church until her recent illness.

Survivors include her husband of 55 years, Don Scott; children, Steve, residing in the Sultanate of Oman, David and wife Janet of Magalia, California, and Anna Lynn of Durham, California; grandchildren, Laida Dickerson, Kristin Drake, Lauren Drake, Heather Scott, Emily Scott and Eric Scott; two great-grandchildren, Arrianna Duarte and Mia Gallardo of San Jose; a sister, Patricia Pound of Klamath Falls, Oregon, and a brother, Edward W. Herndon of Shawnee.

Her husband, Don Scott, would be pleased to hear from readers who would like to share memories, genealogical information and the like. His e-mail address is dscott2csuc@cs.com.



Hazel Glenn Chambless Fulgham Ebert

Hazel Glenn Chambless Fulgham Ebert, 83, passed away quietly early on April 22, 2006, at Renaissance of Timber Ridge at Eureka after a lengthy illness. She was born August 10, 1922, in Ringling to Herman Chambless and Octavia Belle Bolling Chambless.

Hazel grew up in Oklahoma and Pampa, Texas. She was a graduate of Borger High School in Borger, Texas. She won the Miss Borger Texas, a local beauty pageant. In 1942, she moved to Sacramento, California, where she worked for Selective Service. She met and married Ernest Owen Fulgham of Sacramento in 1944. They had two children, Kenneth Owen Fulgham and Myra Susan Fulgham Mintey. As a family they lived in many places and settled in Redding, California.

Hazel worked for the California Department of Transportation (then Division of Highways) for many years as Personnel Department Supervisor. Promotions took her to San Diego and Fresno. She retired after 25 years of service. While in Fresno, she met and married David Arthur Ebert in February 1974. With this marriage, she gained a stepdaughter, Sherry Ebert Hodgson. After retirement, she and David moved to Ardmore for several years and later settled in Grants Pass, Oregon, until David’s death in 2001. She has lived at Timber Ridge at Eureka and Renaissance until her death.

Hazel was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served in many callings including temple worker at the Portland, Oregon, Temple and in the Relief Society Presidency in Grants Pass, Oregon. Hazel was known as a loving, generous, and gracious lady. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands, Ernest and David; and sister, Bettye Ragar of Seattle, Washington.

Survivors include her son, Kenneth; daughters, Myra and Sherry; and her brother, Morris Kent Chambless and his wife, Jo Ann; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren in the Fulgham, Mintey, and Hodgson families.

Sampson Holden

Sampson Holden, 74, of McAlester passed away August 16, 2006, at his home. He was born January 17, 1932, in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, to Henry and Mary Bonapart Holden. He married Juanita LeFlore on September 13, 1970, in Sherman, Texas. Sam worked in construction for Roy Thomas Contractor.

He was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; a son, Curtis LeFlore; and grandson, Jakie LeFlore.

Survivors include his sons, Eugene LeFlore, and best friend Yong’ja of McAlester, Randy Crone and wife Delores of Arpe- lar, Michael Holden of Oklahoma City and Timothy Holden of McAlester; daughters, Veronica Hernandez and husband Miguel of Co-Co Beach, Florida, Vanessa Hernandez and best friend Gregory Moore of Daytona Beach, Florida, Marlene Oliva and husband Mario of Walls, Mississippi, Kimberly Holden of Oklahoma City, and foster daughter, Nancy Eagle of Memphis, Tennessee; brother, Eugene Billy of California; sisters, Ruby Leighton of Norman and Margaret Clark of Topeka, Kansas; 25 grandchildren; four foster grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, other family and friends.



Collin Kyle James

Collin Kyle James, 1, passed away August 5, 2006, in Antlers. Collin was born August 10, 2004, to Shaun Dale James and Rachael Elaine Baker in Talihina.

He was preceded in death by his two uncles, Michael Wayne Baker and Byron Edward “Snake” Woods.

Survivors include his parents, Rachael E. Baker of Corinne and Shaun D. James of Rufe; brother, Kyle Melton Baker of Wright City; sister, Destiny Rose Baker of Corinne; grandparents, Melton and Rosa Baker of Broken Bow and Jackie Jennings of Rufe; great-grandparents, Jeffie Gibson of Sobol and Ida Taylor of Sobol; and numerous other relatives.

A special thank you – I want to say thank you to Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey, Councilman Jack Austin, Outreach workers, Randy Hammons, Norma Austin, Oma Clay, Angie James, Del Powell, Margaret McKinney, Ben Parker, and Bruce Frazier, for all of their help during the loss of my son, Collin. Without caring people like them I couldn’t have done it.



Outreach Services available include:

- Community Health Representatives
- Community-based Social Work
- Victim’s Assistance
- Elder Abuse
- Faith-based Counseling
- Adolescent Family Life
- Injury Prevention
- Vocational Rehabilitation

Many programs from the Choctaw Nation and outside the Choctaw Nation are participating.

Don’t miss it!!!

Lots of information!

Door prizes!

Choctaw Nation CHR Department is hosting a

FALL FESTIVAL OF OUTREACH SERVICES

October 18 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
at the Antlers Fairgrounds
U.S. Congressman Dan Boren will be the luncheon speaker

October 25 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
at the Wilburton Choctaw Center