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OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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September 2005 Issue

Membership Department to be in OKC

Staff members from the Choctaw Nation Tribal Membership/CDIB Department are scheduled to be at the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, September 10, the same day as the center's monthly Indian Taco Sale. The center is located at 5320 S. Youngs Blvd., Oklahoma City.

Choctaw paint colts to be shown at Labor Day Festival

Choctaw paint colts sired by LC – Jetalito Jr. and Treasured Star will be shown during the annual Labor Day Festival at Tuskha Homma. The colts can be seen at the Choctaw Nation Ranch horse barn, Friday, September 2, through Sunday, September 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Six yearlings, one two-yearold colt and one ten-year-old sorrel overo stallion will be offered for sale through sealed bids. Bids will be mailed to: **Choctaw Nation Agriculture P.O. Box 366**

Hugo, OK 74743

and accepted from September 5 through September 30, 2005. Bids will be opened on closing date at 1 p.m. Registration papers and bids can be picked up at showing of colts or Choctaw Nation

Storyteller sharing tales

Tim Tingle book tour continues

In 2004, people from throughout the state cast their votes through the Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma website for the one book that they wanted to read during 2005. The winner by a wide margin was "Walking the Choctaw Road" by Tim Tingle. Since its publication in 2003, "Walking the

Choctaw Road" has gotten several awards including Storytelling World Magazine's Best Anthology for 2004; the International Reader's Association Notable Book for a Global Society, 2004; and Alaska Reads! Book of the Year for 2005.

Whether Choctaw or not, readers will find inspiration from each of the 12 stories. A mixture of historical accounts, traditional lore, and tales from everyday life, the stories are told in chronological order, from the days when most Choctaws were still living in Mississippi, to the Trail of Tears into Okla Homma, to modern day tales of Tingle's own family. Each story invites the reader into a magical place where integrity, bravery, patience, human dignity, courage, tolerance, and faith resonate. The book is available at libraries throughout the state as well as most bookstores.

Of Choctaw descent, Tim began gathering stories at an early age. He remembers visiting his grandmother's house and finding a blanket and a shadowy place to pretend to sleep so that he could stay up and hear the family stories. Tim has expanded his collection of stories by interviewing members of the Choctaw Tribe. He now shares these stories and teaches folklore at schools and universities.

Tim is telling his stories at libraries throughout Oklahoma. The events are free and open to the public. Tim's tales will appeal to young and old alike. This is one event that is meant to be enjoyed by several generations and will hopefully start families talking and sharing their stories with each other.

For a complete list of tour stops and dates, check the schedule on www.okreadsok.org.



IN THE CHOCTAW NATION

September 2-5

Labor Day Festival Tushka Homma

September 6
– 10 a.m. –
Bucklov Public Library

408 Dewey Ave., Poteau

– 7 p.m. – Stigler Public Library 402 NE Sixth St., Stigler

September 7

– 12 noon – Eufaula Memorial Library 301 S. First St., Eufaula

September 8

– 12 noon –
McAlester Public Library
401 N. Second St., McAlester

– 7 p.m. – Hartshorne Public Library 720 Pennsylvania Ave., Hartshorne

Choctaw Nation and Pekin woman partner to show effects of substance abuse

By Jared L. Olar

Pekin (IL) Daily Times

Penny Wood Rusterholz has never been to southeast Oklahoma, but many people there know what she looked like three years ago, when she was a methamphetamine addict.

That's because she has given the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma permission to use her old arrest mug shots in a federally funded program designed to spread awareness of the health problems caused by the abuse of drugs and alcohol.

For the past two and a half years, her mug shots have been used to warn young people about the dangers of meth use.

Law enforcement agencies all across the country and even internationally use her photos in drug awareness programs, because the "before/after" photos, taken in 1998 and 2002, illustrate the shocking degeneration that meth use inflicts on the human body.

"Look at those four years and how it affected the outside of her body – so just imagine what it was doing to the inside of her body," said Jon Hotubbee, coordinator of the Centers for Disease Control grant that funds the program.

"That's what people don't understand. The outside of the body isn't really the trouble. It's the inside of my body that's really messed up. But it's getting better," Rusterholz said.

"But you don't even know when you're high that you're not well – and then it was like I was just sick every day," she said.

"My lungs are trashed. My bladder – I don't have control of my bladder any more. And I have to take medicine to enable me to (have bowel movements and) go to the bathroom," Rusterholz said. "I have mood swings. My teeth are rotted away."

However, she and her husband, Robert Rusterholz, also a recovering meth addict, have also come down with a health problem that is especially relevant to the Choctaw Nation's program: tachycardia, a condition in which their hearts will suddenly race. "Our grant is a cardiovascular-based grant, through the CDC," Hotubbee said. That means the program had to be crafted in a way that highlighted the connection between drug

Agriculture office by request.

People interested in more information on registered paint colts may call Jack Pate at 918-567-3642 or Jack Hicks at 580-326-3201.

Everyone is welcome to view the 2005 paint colts throughout the Labor Day Festival across from the RV main entrance.

Council presents certification to language teachers

The August meeting of the Choctaw Tribal Council featured a presentation to Betty Ward and Leigh Ward with certification to teach the Choctaw Language. They will be teaching through distance learning in public schools. The Choctaw Language classes are broadcast from Durant to 40 schools.

Other business accomplished in the August Regular Session of the Council included approval of submission of grants for Community Development Block Grant, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and Native American Research Centers for Health.

The Council passed budgets for WIC, Victim Assistance, Educational Talent Search, Jones Academy, Food Distribution, Upward Bound Math/Science, Vocational Rehabilitation, Indian Child Welfare, Family Violence, Child Care Development, Health Services, Tribal Operations, Indirect Cost and Consolidated Tribal Government Programs.

Approval was given for the 2006 Indian Housing Plan and for the Jones Academy Policy & Procedures Handbooks.

CARES Project attends tribal meeting

The Choctaw Nation CARES Project recently attended the Region VI Systems of Care (SOC) Meeting, held July 25-28 at the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in Warm Springs, Oregon. Along with five other tribal systems of care, the staff from the CARES Project was able to attend workshops focusing on Clinical Intervention, Evaluation, Professional Development, Social Marketing, and Sustainability. Each workshop was developed to share the triumphs and strategies used when working within a tribal system.

During the conference, two young people with the CARES Project, Dylan Pitchford of Hartshorne and Tiffany Newkirk of Pittsburg were able to attend a youth track, which

featured interactive workshops as well as a tour of the reservation. Also, each of the youth participating in the workshops were able to record Public Service Announcements which were aired over the local radio station, KWSO 91.9, which serves much of north-central



Oregon. The PSAs were to raise awareness of systems of care, as well as promote positive healthy lifestyles that embrace Native American culture.

Great job, Tiffany and Dylan! Living proof that "Our children are our future."

or alcohol abuse and heart or circulation problems. "Everything we do in this grant has to be cardio-

vascular-related and preventive," said Janeen Gray, the program manager.

Joe Bray, statistician for the grant, said they place more of an emphasis on prevention programs, so they can avoid some of the costly treatment programs.

When the program started a few months ago, the focus of the presentations in the community was on cardiovascular disease in general. But surveys of the community convinced them to change their focus somewhat, Gray said.

"Most of our reactions to this program have come from surveys in our community. We did probably a thousand surveys, and they showed the No. 1 concerns are drug and alcohol abuse," Bray said.

So the program was modified to explain the effects of abuse on the heart, and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations teamed up with Gray, Hotubbee and Bray in doing the presentations.

Hotubbee said they've taken Penny's pictures into four or five middle schools, and also to one college.

See PROGRAM on Page 3



Wright City students are introduced to new Choctaw words.



Broken Bow students gather at the Choctaw Center for language lessons.

Summer Language Sessions target five-year-olds

The Language Department completed its Summer Language Sessions at the Wright City Community and Broken Bow Investment Centers from June 13 through July 5. The summer sessions targeted the five-year-olds who participated in the Head Start Program and would be going to Kindergarten in the fall. Students were introduced to new Choctaw words and phrases and reviewed previously learned words through the use of songs, dance, music, and "handson" activities. The core of the success of the Gradual Immersion Program is the involved parents and grandparents who provided additional language and support for the students. Students attending were – Wright City: Robert Briley, Logan Bush, Hunter Gibson, Makaden Bartlett, Samantha Oliver, Kennedy Roberts, Skylar Ruthart, Ashton Willis; and Broken Bow: Kalli Battiest, Trey Meddock, Thomas Blakely, Alizah Baker, Andrew Amos, Nikki Amos, Minko Billy, Emily Rowell and Erica Baker.





Sovereignty Symposium a success

Dear Chief Pyle,

At the conclusion of each Sovereignty Symposium, I am reminded that the reason for the symposium's continued success and growth is its faculty. It is axiomatic that the symposium could not flourish without its superb faculty and panel moderators. I am grateful for your hard work and dedication in making Sovereignty XVIII a valuable and evolving seminar. Your contribution of time, money, and intellect were more than generous.

> **Yvonne Kauger, Coordinator** Sovereignty Symposium XVIII

A gift to be treasured

Dear Chief Pyle,

On the Fourth of July, I treated myself to some personal, quiet time and read "Walking the Choctaw Road" by Choctaw storyteller Tim Tingle. I could not put this vivid collection down and thought each story could not have an equal until I finished the collection and wanted still more.

This wonderful book provided by you to all state legislators is absolutely a gift to be treasured and shared. Thank you for this wonderful, thoughtful gesture.

I will share this book with my family and friends! You have helped me understand our common threads woven through our heritage, but more importantly, you have made me share the horror of bias and hate that knows no bounds of color or ethnicity. And, Tim does this without hurting anger, but by gentle whispers in the winds of his recounting scenes from Choctaw days past.

Jeannie McDaniel State House #78

Billy family information sought

Dear Editor,

I saw an article about the first code talkers, one of whom was Albert Billy. I am Normette Elaine Easter-Moore. My dad was Norman Easter and grandmother was Lucinda Billy. I also had an uncle, Efrom. I am wondering if there is possibly a family link to Albert Billy. If anyone has any information, please contact me.

Normette Moore 611 N. Orange Giddings, TX 78942

Sister's surgery an answer to prayer **Dear Chief Pyle,**

I would like to thank you again, and especially Gary Batton, who has had conversations with my sister, Debbie Rich, who is representing our sister, Denise Lawrence. I know now that the good Lord led us in the right direction when He led us to call on you all. I know we had an angel helping and watching over our need. I cannot begin gain to thank you all for caring, for aiding us in keeping my sister alive and with us. We were all getting so scared and you have been so understanding, especially Gary. I know that there aren't words to express what our whole family is feeling right now and the relief it has had on Denise. We all appreciate you and may God bless you all and keep you encircled in His arms.

Stigler senior citizens enjoy events

Dear Editor,

Yakoke to Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey, the Tribal Council, and especially to Councilperson Charlotte Jackson for the program in the new coliseum on May 25 before our Choctaw Seniors Day began in the Bingo Hall. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the different programs in the arena. We also enjoyed the Reba McEntire Concert on Memorial Day.

> **Choctaw Seniors from the Stigler Choctaw Community Center**

Acquaintances renewed

Dear Editor,

It's been a year since you published a letter from former Choctaw teacher Grace Wathena Smith. I just wanted to tell you how happy I am that you got me in touch with Mrs. Smith. I was named after Mrs. Smith. She was my mother's basketball coach and senior advisor at Haywood School near McAlester. Mom spent many hours with her at school and at her home. I was born in C-Tree, Oklahoma, near McAlester, which is now property of the ammunition depot. My family lived in North Town until we moved to California when I was about ten years old.

I was thrilled to read Mrs. Smith's letter, and soon after you sent her my letter she wrote me and we have been corresponding ever since. We have exchanged pictures. In fact, I have a picture of my Mom and Dad's graduation and Mrs. Smith is sitting by Mom in the front row. Mom and sister Irene Tennant have also written to Mrs. Smith. It's been great to hear some of the stories from Mom and Mrs. Smith.

> Wathena Lorena Morrison El Monte, California

Platoon shares care package

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I got your package and on behalf of my platoon I want to say thank you. When I got your package I opened it and let everyone get something out of it. It's nice to get packages from people I've never met. It helps us to know that there are people back home who care about us. It shows a lot of good faith to take the time to put something like this together for a group of guys that don't get stuff like this all the time. We are just outside a town called Mogadia. It's not a very large town but we do get a lot of problems from some resistance. We are a mech platoon, which means we get around in Bradley tanks. I'm a driver of one in the platoon. We carry the rest of the infantry squads in a platoon in back. We don't get much down time; it seems like we are always on the go. I just wanted to say thanks for the package and just how much it means to us to get stuff like that.

PFC Shane Stacey



Team says thank you

Blaylock awarded for academic success **Dear Editor,**

Dale and Doris Blaylock would like to thank Delton Cox, our Choctaw Tribal Councilman, for awarding our son, Andy Blaylock of Pocola School, a graduate award for a full 12 years' success at school.



Tribe has wonderful programs for seniors **Dear Chief Pyle,**

Thank you very much for the wonderful seniors programs that the Choctaw Nation has. It is wonderful how the Choctaw Nation takes care of its senior citizens.

At our time in life, 69 years, we were having many problems with our house. Foundation problems and serious termite damage. Not having insurance to cover the damage, we applied to the Choctaw Nation for their help and in less than two months it was approved, all the paper and foot work was done and work began.

The contractor that was chosen to do our work was Nathan Bryant Construction Co. out of Durant. Nathan and his crew, consisting of Chris and Bo, started on our house exactly when Nathan told us they would. The work was hard, hot and nasty, but they worked hard and long hours to get the work done. They did many "outside" things for us, such as painting the entire interior of our house, replaced all interior doors without extra cost to us. We were allowed to choose our paint, floor coverings, etc.

We had to move out of our house into a small trailer while repairs were being done, and Nathan and his boys worked on the trailer, set it up and leveled it for us, hooking up the utilities, etc., so that we would be comfortable.

Nathan and his small crew did an excellent job on our home and we proudly show off our "new" home to everyone and tell them, "This is what the Choctaw Nation and Nathan did for us!" We are so very proud of it and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for what you did for us. Without you, we could not have done it.

Nathan and his boys were always very pleasant and friendly. If we asked them to do something Nathan would say, "consider it done." We really appreciate them and consider them our lifetime friends. We recommend them freely to everyone.

It is wonderful what the Choctaw Nation does for their seniors. Thanks to the Choctaw Nation, your seniors have quality of life not available to them from any other source. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

> **Bob and Mary Hodge** Bethel, Oklahoma

'Isn't indoor plumbing great!?'

Dear Choctaw Nation,

A long time ago I heard a story of a young bride who married a well-to-do young man and he gave her the home of her dreams, with every new-fangled, updated, modern appliances you could think of in her kitchen.

Her aging great-grandmother from the old home place came to visit. As the new bride proudly showed off her gleaming sinks, the fancy refrigerator, garbage disposal, etc., to her old nana, she asked her, "Which of my wonderful conveniences do you like best? Just tell me and you shall have it in your kitchen."

After looking at everything and "oohing" and "aahing" at all the right times, she turned to her great-granddaughter and said, "I want the indoor running water!"

Long story just to say, "Thanks for my new water line!" I have been without water for a while due to a broken line up to my house, which is a piece off the main road, and so I sent in my application for assistance to the Choctaw Nation Office of Environmental Health and Engineering at Hugo. And before too long a pleasant young man, Richard, came by and assessed my water problems.

Patsy Moore and the Lawrence family

Searching for information

Dear Editor,

I am looking for information on Bobby Lee and Tracy Jean Fisher. If anyone has any information, please contact Dora Layman, RR 4 Box 1330, Eufaula, OK 74432, or 918-689-9015. Thank you.

Seeking descendants of Bam Ford

Dear Editor,

I am seeking descendants of my great-grandmother, Bam Ford. She had five husbands. Please send information to Robert Cotner #93780, B/5-130, Mack Alford Cor. Center, P.O. Box 220, Stringtown, OK 74569.

Help received in time of sorrow

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and the CHR department for helping us in our time of sorrow. It was really great how fast they came through to help. This shows how dedicated some of the people are in helping the Choctaws in their time of need. The Byars Baken and Johnson family

Gregory E. Pyle Mike Bailey Chief The Official Assistant Chief **Monthly Publication** of the **Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma**

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

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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® 2005

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The Thumpers 10 and under softball team would like to thank Chief Pyle, Councilman Delton Cox, and everyone responsible for the support you gave our team during the 2005 season. Because of your generosity, we will be able to purchase much-needed new uniforms. Players are, kneeling, Haley Brown, Madison Lomon, Braylin Gray, and Mariko McCraney; standing, Alex Butcher, Olivia Hanson, Kameron Brewer, Nicole Bark, Erica Shankle, Tara Blanton, and Mikayla Roberts. Not pictured are coaches Todd Butcher, Kenny Brown, and Chief Bark.

Seeking help from tribal members

Dear Choctaw Nation.

My adoptive name is Kristal Joyce Johnson and I am searching for my biological parents. I was born on April 11, 1977, at St. John Medical Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, My biological mother was onehalf Choctaw and one-half Cherokee, enrolled with the Choctaw tribe. My biological father was one-half Cherokee and one-half African American. I am uncertain if he was enrolled with the Cherokee tribe. My mother was 16 years old at the time of my birth and lived in a town in south central Oklahoma. She resided in a home for unwed mothers until April 26, 1977. If anyone has any information, please contact me at 918-906-8223.

Kindness appreciated

Dear Editor,

Nadine Billy and family would like to express their appreciation to the Choctaw Nation and to Councilman Jack Austin and wife, Norma, for their assistance with burial expenses. The family would like to thank everyone who sent flowers, cards, and food. A special thank you to the singers, pallbearers, ladies from the District 7 CHRs, and the Soloman Billy family for meal preparation. The family greatly appreciated the Sobol Baptist Church for the use of their facilities. Thank you to all who came to visit and pay respects to our loved one, Edwin Billy. Thank you for kindness and empathy at a time that was deeply appreciated. May God bless you.

Information needed **Dear Editor**,

I would be so grateful for any help finding information about my grandfather. He was full-blood Choctaw and played baseball/football with the "Ben Harjos All-Indian Team." I believe his name is Dave Byington Sr. If anyone has any information, I would be so grateful. **Danielle Byington-Leopold** danielle760@yahoo.com

Searching for information **Dear Editor**,

I am searching for any descendents related to Norris Henry Cooper. He was my great-grandfather. I am seeking any information on family or friends. Please feel free to call me at 760-564-3122 or write to theefam@peoplepc.com. Thank you.



Next, after a couple of moons, two of the nicest young men, Steve and Clint, showed up with truck, dozer, hand tools and supplies and worked hard for two days to install a new water line to my house.

If you have ever had to catch rainwater or haul water for your basic needs, then you know why the old woman liked the running water best. "Isn't indoor plumbing great!?"

Thanks again, we are blessed to have leaders and workers in the Choctaw Nation who offer and provide help to all of us.

> **Caroline Jones** Idabel, Oklahoma

Thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Grandfather Otto Borden and granddaughter Misty Renee Beggs both wish to extend their sincere gratitude for the financial aid that the tribe provided. As a result, she has achieved her first educational goal. On May 21, Misty earned her bachelor's degree from California State Uni-



versity, Fresno, with a major in psychology. They would both like to honor the memory of the lady they are descended from, Kitsie Jefferson, an original enrollee.

Softball camp appreciated

Dear Chief Pyle,

Just wanted to let you know how much we appreciated the camp that was put on for softball. My 12-year-old daughter, Erin, attended that camp. I was really pleased with the outcome. It gave a lot of girls an opportunity to get instruction that they might not have otherwise received. Thanks again.

> **Tracey Workman** Quinton, Oklahoma

Researching ancestry

Dear Editor,

I am searching for information on my ancestors. My great-greatgrandmother, Mary Jane Wilson, was married three times - 1864, Gabriel Herron; 1869, Lee Tiner; and 1875, Michael L. Hagewood. Herron-Tiner lived on Buffalo Head in Blue County. Hagewood lived in Stringtown. Children are as follows: Jackson Herron, John Herron, Sarah (?) Whitewing-Davis-Alexander, Newton J. Tiner, Caroline Tiner-Hall-Butler, Joseph Marion Hagewood, Elijah Eli Hagewood, Melinda V. Hagewood aka Vitty Phillips-Fain, Perlucy A. Hagewood-Grisson-Meeks-Curtis, Iralina T. Hagewood-Brown and James Hagewood.

Wanda Wright 478 Meadow Lane Eagle Point, OR 95524 541-826-3848





Johnny Garcia, Booger Barter Operations Manager; Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Ernie Taylor Sr.

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey ...

Largest team roping in America held at Choctaw Coliseum

The United States Team Roping Championships (USTRC) has continually been the leader in championship team roping events for amateur ropers for more than 15 years. They have a unique classifications system that maintains the handicaps of well over a hundred thousand team ropers across our Nation. This system classifies ropers for a fair competition, regardless of age or ability.

The USTRC had a July Championship event at the Choctaw Coliseum in Durant, and I was fortunate to be included in the roping to compete as one of the amateurs. It was thrilling to actually place 9th in an event with my heeler, Ernie Taylor. It was great fun and a wonderful experience to be in the arena with so many wonderful athletes.

Rodeo events, especially roping, have been a part of my life for about 30 years. A departure from personal participation in events during most of my adult life was necessary simply because of time constraints due to jobs as a coach, teacher, school administrator and tribal leader. The USTRC hosting this year's event in Durant at the Choctaw facility was a tremendous stroke of luck for me, allowing me to



be involved in a sport that I am went home with someone else.

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle ...

Thanks extended for friendship and support

The recent loss of my fatherin-law, James Baker, was a devastating blow to my family, yet the outpouring of love and support from all of our friends was a tremendous help. The expressions of sympathy were greatly appreciated.

My wife, Patti, and I have been extremely blessed to have all four of our parents still living up to this point and are comforted to know that James' relationship with Christ ensures his eternity in Heaven. In spite of the horrible sadness and emptiness that is felt among all of our family at his departure, we do rejoice as Christians that there is that hope for the future of spiritual reunion.

I have attended many funerals in my lifetime, yet this was the first time that the deceased was of my immediate family. In the past, many letters of appreciation have come from others whom the tribe has assisted during their time of need, and our current loss has certainly increased my empathy for others as they deal with the trauma of



death.

Thanks are extended to everyone for their warm friendship and prayers. Please continue to pray for my family – we have faith that God will deliver us from this valley back onto the mountaintop.



Chaplain's Corner By the Rev. Bertram Bobb,

Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

As Christians we have much to be thankful for. We thank God for our Choctaw people and for our great Choctaw Nation. We thank God for His love. He loved us first before we loved Him. (I John 4:19). We thank Him for His Only Begotten Son. (John 3:16). We thank God for the Gospel: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, (I Corinthians 15:1-4) the answer to the needs of every individual worldwide. Especially, in these last days.

There are so many things to be thankful for. Even if you are not a Christian you must admit that there is much to be thankful for. All the blessings that you enjoy come from God's hands. We read in the Gospel of Matthew 5:45: "... for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the thankful that you have been spared to hear God's message of salvation." Although God hates your sin – sinful behavior (in thought, word and deed), He does love you – the person – and He "... is longsuffer-



very enthusiastic about.

Soon after the USTRC event, I was able to enter a Booger Barter roping in Lubbock where I placed in the top ten. I got to go back twice with two different ropers in the draw to compete for a Dodge truck. The truck but I did end up in the 7th and 8th spots in the two draws.

A benefit team roping is being planned at the Durant Coliseum to provide assistance for needy families. This is a great way that we can all give back to the community.



U.S. Senator James Inhofe shares this photo with BISHINIK readers of a presentation in his Washington, D.C., office in recognition of tribal employee Inez Sitter. Also pictured are Sitter's grandson, Andrew; son-in-law David Goddard, granddaughter, Allison, and daughter, Barbara Goddard.

Program continued from Page 1_____

"The kids are really impressed with the fact that this is a real person who has gone through this," Hotubbee said.

"People are just beating our doors down, wanting to see our presentation," he said. "The community, the counties, the schools, the churches – everyone is really excited about this (program)."

The program has also attracted the attention of the CDC, Gray said.

"The CDC was very excited about us doing that link of drug abuse and heart trouble. No one else was doing that," she said.

Because of the pioneering nature of the program, the CDC has invited them to give a presentation at Atlanta, Georgia, at the National CDC Conference.

The tribe has extended an invitation to Rusterholz to visit Oklahoma and speak to Choctaw communities about her experience with drug addiction.

"I think it's cool. I think it's great, that it can help people. I can't wait till I can go out of town so I can speak to them," she said.

After completing intensive probation, Rusterholz will be able to ask Tazewell County Adult Probation for permission to travel.

"We believe in second chances," Hotubbee said. "We believe everyone makes mistakes, and everyone deserves a second chance. I would just like her to get that second chance in her community. God forgives us, so we should forgive each other." Sunrise Service 6 a.m. Sunday September 4 in the Choctaw Village at Tushka Homma during the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival ing to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9).

Now, I would like to consider with you what may be regarded the greatest thanksgiving text in all the Word of God. There is nothing comparable to it.

We read in Matthew 26:27 the record of our Lord Jesus Christ standing before His disciples "... took the cup, and gave thanks ..." The cup contained the "fruit of the vine" which represented the blood which He was soon to shed for the sins of the world. It was the cup of death, and yet with the very shadow of the cross upon Him, He could thank God.

Crowded into that cup were the sins of the world, the wrath of God and the sacrifice of Himself. Instead of shrinking from it and crying out to be delivered, He quietly bowed His head and thanked God. The crucial hour was upon Him – the moment for which He had been born and which had brought Him into the world. <u>He was ready to accomplish the redemption of mankind</u>.

All the agonies He was to experience in those awful hours, as He hung a bleeding victim on Calvary, were represented by the cup He held in His blessed hand – and <u>He thanked God</u>.

All through Old Testament days when the brazen altar stood in the court yard, as lambs and bullocks were brought to the sacrifice they came bleating and bellowing. But the true Lamb of God "gave thanks." There was no shrinking from danger as the cattle seem to do as they are led to the slaughter. There was no trembling and no voice of regret that He had come to the fatal hour.

In the Garden of Gethsemane when Satan sought to impose upon Him a premature death, Jesus cried out to His heavenly Father to let this cup pass from Him. He shrunk from the idea of dying in any other way than upon the cross as had been predicted in Scripture. Such a death would have defeated the whole scheme of divine redemption. Satan would have been the victor and man would have been eternally hopeless.

The cross with all that it entailed was His goal, and praise God, He reached it, and when He had accomplished what needed to be done, and God's righteousness had been vindicated and our sin debt had been completely paid, He cried out, "It is finished." (John 19:30).

Jesus looked upon the broken bread and the wine in the cup, which was to be sipped by all His disciples, as something very significant. The full measure of it was known only to Himself, yet He could "thank God." Thanksgiving can go on no higher, His blood has saved the entire human race, and rises to sprinkle the Mercy Seat in the Throne room of the Almighty.

Have we thanked God for the death of Jesus and



do we rejoice in His finished work in our behalf? "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." (II Corinthians 9:15).

My friend, we should be thankful because we know that we are sinners! (Romans 3:23). Jesus said, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Luke 5:32). The truth about this matter is that everyone is a sinner, and that no one will ever be saved except they recognize their sinful condition and cry "... God be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:13).

We should also be thankful because we do not have to save ourselves. If we were saved by our own efforts, we could never know when we had done enough to save ourselves – a neverending task. God makes it very plain in His Word, the Bible, in Titus 3:5, that it is "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us ..." and that "... it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9).

Be thankful for the glorious future that awaits us for "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." (I Corinthians 2:9).

The blessed Lord on His throne pours out His blessings then waits for the expression of gratitude, the expression of thankfulness, that should come from our hearts. Does He hear it? Does He receive it? So often from the statement in Romans 1:21: "... neither were thankful ..." He does not receive our expression of gratitude.

We read in Colossians 3:15 "... be ye thankful." Isn't it strange that God would have to command us to give thanks.

We read in Psalm 106:47 that we are saved and separated in order that we may give thanks to God. The world gives not thanks. The ungodly never bow the head in gratitude to the God of their lives. It is those who are saved from the penalty of sin, death, and have been set apart as God's people who are filled with thanksgiving. Surely we will not rob God thanks due to His name, and prove to be ungrateful and unthankful to the God who has done so much for us.

Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? If you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior, you can do that today, even right now. Confess or agree with God you are a sinner and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior by faith.

Pray for USA and its leaders. Pray for our men and women in the armed services of our country. Pray for the Native American nations and their leaders.

Stay at a healthy weight

About 206,000 young people under 20 years of age have diabetes as obesity rates in children continue to soar. Type 2 diabetes, a disease that used to be seen primarily in adults over age 45, is becoming more common in young people. There are unique challenges when dealing with diabetes. Keeping our children at a healthy weight will help manage and overcome challenges we face with diabetes and ensure their health and well-being.

How can you get to a healthy weight? You need to eat fewer calories each day and be more active. Here are some ways to succeed:

• BE ACTIVE ALMOST EVERY DAY for 30 to 60 minutes to burn up extra calories and get fit. Play tag or go for a bike ride instead of playing computer games. Ask a friend or family member to join you on a walk instead of watching TV.

• CUT SOME CALORIES - The number of calories in a food shows how much energy you can get from it. To lose weight, you need to eat about 200 to 300 calories less than usual each day.

• DRINK WATER instead of juices or regular soda pop. You can cut about 150 calories!

• EAT SMALLER SERVINGS, such as small serving of french fries instead of a big one - and cut about 250 calories!

• EAT A PIECE OF FRUIT instead of a candy bar. You will cut about 200 calories!

• ASK YOUR DOCTOR TO HELP YOU FIND A DIETI-TIAN OR A DIABETES EDUCATOR. He or she can help you and your family make the best food choices.

• **REMEMBER** it's best to be slow and steady in your weight loss because you are still growing. Very low-calorie diets are not healthy for growing children and teens. Kids who do not eat enough food may not grow or develop the right way.

All information was collected from the website www.ndep.nih. gov. For more information on this topic, please go to www.ndep. nih.gov. If you need further assistance, please contact Raina Sparks, Dietitian, DWC, Talihina, 1-918-465-8030.

- - - Featured Recipe - - -

THE LANA'I SANDWICH

- 1 can (8 oz.) pineapple slices in juice
- 1/4 cup reduced-calorie mayonnaise
- 1 Tbsp. mustard
- 1 green onion, thinly sliced
- 1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper
- **8** slices 9-grain bread
- 4 thin slices baked ham and/or turkey
- 4 thin slices reduced-fat swiss cheese
- 4 romain lettuce leaves

L Place strainer inside a mixing bowl. Pour pineapple slices into strainer; drain. Combine 1 Tbsp. of pineapple juice with mayonnaise, mustard, green onion, and cayenne. Spread over one side of each slice of bread. Lay four slices of bread flat on counter. Layer the ham and/or turkey, cheese, pineapple, lettuce and remaining bread slices. Place on cutting board. Cut sandwiches in half on the diagonal and serve. Makes 4 servings. Per serving: Calories 302; total fat 10g; saturated fat 2.5g; cholesterol 18mg; sodium 827mg; carbohydrates 47g; fiber 6.6g; protein 15g.

Featured recipe provided by "Fun with Fruits & Vegetables" Kids Cookbook.

Water, water and more water

Did you know that losing only 2% of your body weight from sweating will reduce your ability to perform your best? Did you know that 70% of your body weight is water and 30% of that is in your bones?

Your body uses water to carry substances to the cells and waste products to the kidneys. It also lubricates and helps you digest the food you eat as well as regulating your body's temperature. If your water level is low, your body will not function properly. Losing only 20% of water could result in death.

Always drink plenty of water before, during and after exercise and physical activity. You must drink more than you want, to maintain an adequate fluid level and prevent dehydration. Dehydration is a very serious condition that reduces your ability to perform and may do damage to your muscles. Dehydration is when your body releases more fluid than you take in.

Many young athletes don't take water consumption serious enough. They wonder why they run out of energy at the final minutes of a game or competition or why they are very tired and sore the next day after exercising. These symptoms could be directly related to not enough water intake.

Many times an athlete restricts his or her intake of water for a number of reasons. Whether they feel water will make them

States.

okay.

Some environmental factors

that contribute to the develop-

ment of bullying behavior in-

• Too little supervision of

children and adolescents. Chil-

dren need to get the message

that bullying behavior is not

• Aggressive behavior in the

home. Some children are more

likely than others to imitate ag-

gressive behavior. Watching

adults bully each other gives

children the tools they need to

· Harsh physical punish-

ment. Bullies often attack

smaller, weaker children to

model what happens to them

become bullies themselves.

clude the following:

vomit or slow them down during physical activity or just don't have enough water available to them at the time, an athlete should never restrict their intake of water. Very rarely does an athlete vomit from drinking too much water.

Many products and sport drinks are available to help quickly replenish fluids during vigorous exercises, but, contain artificial ingredients and chemicals. Read the labels of everything you eat or drink and don't assume it's the right thing to put into your body because some commercial on TV says so. Water is the best choice for athletes or anyone who is physically active.

Here are some guidelines to follow regarding water consumption:

• Always have plenty of water available during physical activity.

 Always drink water at room temperature during physical activity.

• Drink MORE than enough to quench your thirst. Drink even when you are not thirsty during physical activity. • People who sweat more should drink more.

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

Bullying: An age-old problem still victimizing today

Bullying is nothing new to students who walk through the halls and into the classrooms of public schools all across the country.

Unfortunately, adults have been slow to recognize the behavior of bullies and how that behavior affects their peers. In their article, "Overcoming Bullying Behavior," Ellen R. Clore, R.N., and Judith A. Hibel, R.N., describe bullying as "one or more individuals inflicting physical and emotional abuse on another - including threats of bodily harm, weapon possession, extortion, civil rights violation, assault and battery, gang activity, attempted murder, and murder." Other professionals also add sexual harassment to the list of bullying behaviors.

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According to the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), approxi-

Sign Language Club formed in Talihina

A Sign Language Club is meeting every Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. at the Choctaw Community Center in Talihina. There are no fees, age, skill, or physical requirements to participate.

mately one in seven schoolin their homes. The worst poschildren is either a bully or a victim of bullying, and the physical. problem affects about 5 mil-

dren may be bullied by their "friends" or may be encouraged to bully to be part of the group.

back. Bullies feel that the world around them is more negative than positive. As a result, they use negative behavior to feel important and get attention.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

4128.

The Choctaw Nation Head Start announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). All participants in attendance are served meals, at no extra charge to the parents and without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. In accordance with federal law and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This statement applies to the center(s) listed below: Antlers, Atoka, Bennington, Bethel, Broken Bow, Coalgate, Durant, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, Stigler, Wilburton, Wright City.

· Constant negative feed-

• Expecting hostility. In many ways, the bully's phi-

they are attacked, and assume hostility where none may exist. Just as bullying was a problem during the 1850's, its prevalence today is still very real. If you know a child who

shows signs of aggressive behavior, such as bullying, or if you child has been victimized by bullying and is suffering emotionally, or for more information on bullying, please feel free to call the Choctaw Nation CARES Project at (918) 567-

losophy is "the best defense is

offense." They attack before

sible punishment for bullies is • Abusive peers. Chillion elementary and junior high students in the United

Healthy Lifestyles

Ten commandments of shooting safety

Hunting season is just around the corner so keep these tips in mind when going hunting.

1. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction. Do not point a firearm or bow at anything you do not intend to shoot. Never rest a muzzle on your toe or foot. Keep your finger off of the trigger guard until the instant you are ready to fire. Always keep the safety on until ready to fire; however, the safety should never be a substitute for safe firearm handling.

2. Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow. Every time you pick up a firearm, the first thing you do is check to see if it's loaded. Be sure the chamber and magazine are empty and the action is open until ready to be fired. If you do not understand how to determine if it's loaded, do not accept the firearm until someone has safely shown you that it's unloaded. Read your instruction manual carefully before you handle new firearms or bows.

3. Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond your target. Before you pull the trigger you must properly identify game animals. Until your target is fully visible and in good light, do not even raise your scope to see it. Use binoculars! Determine that you have a safe backstop or background. Since you do not know what is on the other side, never take a shot at any animals on top of ridges or hillsides. Know how far bullets, arrows and pellets can travel. Never shoot at flat, hard surfaces, such as water, rocks or steel because of ricochets.

4. Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use. Leave actions open, and store sporting arms in cases when traveling to and from shooting areas. Take bolts out or break down shotguns if necessary. Know how your equipment operates. Store and transport firearms and ammunition separately and under lock and key. Store firearms and bows in cool, dry places. Use gun or trigger locks and guards when not in use.

5. Handle the firearms, arrows and ammunition carefully. Avoid horseplay with firearms. Never climb a fence, a tree or a ladder with a loaded firearm or bow and arrows. Never jump a ditch or cross difficult terrain with a loaded firearm or nocked arrow. Never face or look down the barrel from the muzzle end. Be sure the only ammunition you carry correctly matches the gauge or caliber you are shooting. Always carry arrows in a protected cover or quiver. Learn the proper carries. Try to use the two-hand carry whenever possible because it affords you the best muzzle control. Always carry handguns with hammers over an empty chamber or cylinder. If you fall, be sure to disassemble the gun and check the barrel from the breech end for obstructions. Carry a field cleaning kit.

6. Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it. Your safe zone-of-fire is that area or direction in which you can safely fire a shot. It is "down range" at a shooting facility. In the field it is that mental image you draw in your mind with every step you take. Be sure you know where your companions are at all times. Never swing your gun or bow out of your safe zone-of-fire. Know the safe carries when there are persons to your sides, in front of, or behind you. If in doubt, never take a shot. When hunting, wear daylight fluorescent orange so you can be seen from a distance.

7. Control your emotions when it comes to safety. If you lose control of your emotions you may do something carelessly. If you have just shot a target or animal you probably will be excited. Show discipline. Show restraint and pass up shots which have the slightest chance of being unsafe.

8. Wear hearing and eye protection. While shooting at the range, you must wear hearing and eye protection at all times. Firearms are loud and can create noises which are damaging to a person's hearing. It can be a gradual loss of hearing due to outbursts of noise over many years. The damage could also be immediate, especially if your ears are next to a muzzle blast. Vibrations from the blast are enough to create loss of hearing. Wear glasses to protect your eyes from escaping gases, burnt powder (especially in black powder shooting), and other debris.

9. Don't drink alcohol or take drugs before or while handling firearms or bow and arrows. Alcohol and drugs impair normal physical and mental body functions and mustn't be used before or while handling firearms or archery equipment. These substances affect emotions, making it easier to lose control.

10. Be aware of additional circumstances which require added caution or safety awareness. Just because something isn't listed under these "ten commandments of shooting safety" doesn't mean you can ignore it if it is dangerous. There may be rules such as in muzzle loading or archery or posted at a shooting range which should also be followed.

All the above information was gathered on this web site at http://www.gamecalls.net/huntingtips/ safetytips/html.

IRON IN FOODS: does my child get enough?

Your child needs enough iron:

• To support his or her rapid growth.

• To replace iron that the body uses up. • To have enough energy to learn and play.

Iron-deficiency anemia is a common nutrition problem for young ch Checking for anemia should be your child's regular health exam sure? Ask your child's health ca vider.

You need enough iron, too.

Everyone in your family need from food to feel good and stay h Women need it to replace the iro each month through menstrual flo clude iron-rich foods in your family and snacks. Your child will benefit,

The body uses iron from meat and chicken better than iron from beans, grain products, vegetables, dried fruit, and egg yolks. Good news! Vitamin C helps the body use the iron from meats. Foods you serve your family make a difference. Try this!

hildren. part of m. Not ire pro-	Food with Iron Breakfast cereal Peanut butter sandwich Kidney beans in chili Hard-cooked egg Pasta salad	and with and	Food with Vitamin C Berries or juice A tangerine Tomato sauce Orange juice Bell peppers
ds iron	Food with Iron		Meat source of iron
healthy. con lost ow. In- y meals t, too.	Whole-grain bun Refried beans Rice Scrambled egg	with with	Hamburger patty Chicken burrito Pork stir-fry Ham



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
Poteau	918-647-4585	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	8:00-4:30	Every Tuesday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Thursday

HEALTHY LIVING = LONGER LIFE

Choctaw Nation GED CLASSES

BRYAN COUNTY

Beginning date: October 10, 2005 Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex 16th and Locust St. (south bldg., downstairs), Durant

PITTSBURG COUNTY

Beginning date: October 10, 2005 Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. EOSC Campus 1802 E. College Ave., McAlester

SOUTH LEFLORE COUNTY

Beginning date: October 11, 2005 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Kiamichi Technology Center, Talihina

McCURTAIN COUNTY

Beginning date: October 11, 2005 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. E.T. Dunlap, 2805 NE Lincoln Rd., Idabel

The class will meet two days each week for approximately three 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.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the conservation agency for the USDA and works hand-in-hand with the American people to conserve natural resources on private and Tribal lands.

NRCS provides the following services:

• Cost share programs for conservation work Technical assistance for conservation practices

• Conservation planning assistance Natural resource assessments

Please contact the local USDA Service Center located in the county where you live. The local NRCS office also works in cooperation with the local Conservation District. Information is available on the USDA World Wide Web: www.nrcs.usda.gov or you may contact the Oklahoma NRCS home page at www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov. You may also contact:

> Ann Colyer NRCS Tribal Resource Conservationist 16th and Locust Durant, OK 74702 Phone: (580) 924-8280, Ext. 5134

All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

NOTICE

To the Legal Heirs and **Descendants of OLLIE HAMPTON, full**blood Choctaw, deceased Reasor Law Office is attempting to locate any living heirs, devisees or legatees of the above-named deceased person. Ollie Hampton's parents and siblings that have been provided to our office by the Choctaw Nation and Bureau of Indian Affairs are as follows:

Johnston Hampton, her father, deceased;

Francis Hampton, her mother, deceased;

Jerry Hampton, her brother, deceased;

Evelyn Hampton, her sister, deceased.

By contacting this office could mean certain MON-EYS BEING PAID to the living relative or relatives of Ollie Hampton, full-blood Choctaw.

It is very imperative and important that any living relative contact Reasor Law office at the following address and/or phone number:

Shannon Reasor **Reasor Law Office** 209 East Court St. P.O. Box 393 Atoka, OK 74525 Phone: 580-889-3343 **Contact person: Connie** Hallows



Susie Burlison works on a colored pencil drawing for an upcoming art show. Burlison uses colored pencils to create scenes of Choctaw family life. Burlison returned to a childhood passion for art years after developing a debilitating muscle disease similar to muscular dystrophy.

Wagoner woman's work is 'People's Choice' at **Five Civilized Tribes show**

Susie

Burlison

FAMILY: Lives with mother.

CHURCH: Grace Missionary

Baptist Church in Wagoner.

oil painting classes, arts and

crafts, needle and beadwork.

FUTURE PLANS: Entering

competitions, illustrate a book,

sell her drawings and continue

drawing portraits for the public.

HOBBIES: Church work,

HOMETOWN: Wagoner.

By Mark Francis Muskogee Phoenix

Susie Burlison says she had never been ill other than a cold. So she was not concerned when a weakness enveloped her body.

Burlison, 45, of Wagoner said there were times she couldn't open doors or rise from a seated position.

Susie Burlison was 26 when she was diagnosed with polymyositis. It is an incurable disease that inflames the trunk muscles. It is usually prevalent in women more than men in their 40s and 50s, according to the

From the youth of the nation ...

Teen suicide

By Dayla Amos

Suicides among young people nationwide have increased dramatically in recent years. Each year in the U.S., thousands of teenagers commit suicide. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-olds, and the sixth leading cause of death for 5- to 14-year-olds.

Teenagers experience strong feelings of stress, confusion, self-doubt, pressure to succeed, financial uncertainty, and other fears while growing up. For some teenagers, divorce, the formation of a new family with step-parents and step-siblings, or moving to a new community can be very unsettling and can intensify self-doubts. For some teens, suicide may appear to be a solution to their problems and stress.

Depression and suicidal feelings are treatable mental disorders. The child or adolescent needs to have his or her illness recognized and diagnosed, and appropriate treatment plans developed. When parents are in doubt whether their child has a serious problem, a psychiatric examination can be very helpful.

Many of the symptoms of suicidal feelings are similar to those of depression. Parents should be aware of the following signs inadolescents who may try to kill themselves:

• change in eating and sleeping habits

• withdrawal from friends, family, and regular activities

• violent actions, rebellious behavior, or running away

• drug and alcohol use

• unusual neglect of personal appearance

• marked personality change A teenager who is planning to commit suicide may also:

· complain of being a bad person or feeling rotten inside

• give verbal hints with statements such as: "I won't be a problem for you much longer," "Nothing matters," "It's no use," and "I won't see you again"

• put his or her affairs in order, for example, give away favorite possessions, clean his or her room, throw away important belongings, etc. • become suddenly cheerful after a period of depression • have signs of psychosis (hallucinations or bizarre thoughts) If someone says, "I want to kill myself," or "I'm going to commit suicide," always take the statement seriously and immediately seek assistance from a qualified mental health professional.

FOOD DISTRIBUTIO

October 3

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

October 4

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

October 5

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

October 6

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

October 7

Warehouse opens

October 26

Last day for the month at Warehouse

Food Distribution Program workers will take a 30-minute lunch break from 11:30 to 12 noon.

Please bring boxes with you to pick up your commodities. If you cannot pick up commodities when you are scheduled, please notify the Food Distribution Office at 800-522-6170 so they can tell you where you need to go.

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

BETHEL: Choctaw Community Building. BROKEN BOW: Choctaw Family Investment Center.

DURANT: Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr.

IDABEL: Choctaw Village Shopping Center. McALESTER: Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 1212 S. Main

POTEAU: Choctaw Family Investment Center. **SMITHVILLE:** Big Lick Church.

STIGLER: Choctaw Community Building.

Food Distribution Program does not discriminate because of sex, race, color, age, political beliefs, religion, handicap or national origin.

SAT SUN FR U 1 0 2 Stigler 4 3 5 6 7 8 В Talihina oy appt only Idabel McAlester 10 am-2 pn l0 am-2 pm E 10 am-2 pm R 9 10 12 13 11 14 15 Atoka Durant Antlers 10 am-2 pm 10 amoy appt only Coalgate 12 noon 10:30-1:30 18 Crowder 22 16 17 20 21 19 Broken Bow and Wilburton Wright 10 am-2 pm McAlester 10:30 am City by appt only 2 by appt only -2 pm 0 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 0 Bethel Durant oy appt only by appt only 5 30 31

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.

Mayo Clinic website.

She turned to a lifelong love of graphic drawing to help with rehabilitation and discovered an extension to her teaching career.

"Teaching wasn't a job to me, I loved kids," said Burlison. "And the art is not work, it's just something I enjoy."

Her teaching career was only into its fourth year before her life of treatments and prescriptions began, and 19 years later she takes 15 prescriptions per day.

Burlison, a Choctaw, entered three graphic portraits into the Five Civilized Museum Competitive Art Show recently and won the People's Choice Award for "Family Gathering."

A graphic of the old Pushmataha Hall at the Wheelock Academy near Millerton was purchased and hangs in the restored structure.

Burlison, who prefers to work in colored pencils, likes to do happy scenes in her graphics. The illness is what God had planned for her and she's accepted it, she said.

"I realized how delicate and resilient our bodies are," she said. "I see the kindness of people when I go out. People just open up. I love people."

Burlison said she prefers family portraits as she pointed out various members of her family in a drawing titled "Thanksgiving Memories" that hangs in her dining room. She incorporates family memories such as her aunt's constant laugh and the slip that always showed from under her grandmother's dress.

Her mother, Mary, said Burlison had a knack for drawing and her decision to take it up full time was only a trait waiting to happen.



or refinance a home at

www.choctawhomefinance.web-loans.com

We lend money in all 50 states and if you qualify you could apply for up to \$333,700 with 1 to 3% down with a conventional fixed rate for 30 years - and if eligible, Choctaw Nation Home Finance will finance 2% of your down payment and all of your closing as a second mortgage.

For any additional information needed, call Choctaw Nation Housing Authority, Home Finance Department, at 1-800-235-3087 for help with the application and/or we will address additional questions for you.

CHOCTAW NATION HOME FINANCE

Language **Department News**

Durant Classes

Phase IV of the Choctaw Language Class will begin September 13 at the Durant Senior Citizen Community Center located at 1705 W. Locust. This class will meet every Tuesday night from 7 to 9 p.m.

For more information, please call Richard Adams at 580-924-8280 or Ann Kaniatobe at 580-924-5192 after 5 p.m. Yakoke.

16th Annual George Hammons Memorial Bulldoggin' October 2 in Finley, Oklahoma - 3 head for \$180 -Twister trophy saddle to average winner. Spurs to 40 & over. Bulldoggin' starts at 1 p.m. Contact Bruce Hammons at 580-298-9841. Bring lawn chairs. Concession available. Stock contractor: Roy Duvall

Calera Shufflers

sponsors of the Senior Scholarship Program is featuring a

Domino Tourney with lunch, desserts, pop, cof-

fee, tea, and fun for everyone including the silent auction of donations from area businesses 11 a.m. • September 24 at the **Calera Community Center** \$5.00 per person Contact Keiller Burkhalter 580-434-5974

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

People You Know

Stormi turns one

Happy first birthday on June 21 to Stormi Rain Arnold. Stormi is the daughter of Regina and Chad Arnold of Eagletown, Oklahoma.

Happy first birthday

Happy first birthday on September 16 to Brianna Kaye Howard. Brianna is the daughter of Matthew and Nakisha Howard of Tuttle, Oklahoma. She loves playing with her big brother, Braden, and her Dora toys.

Her grandparents are Sherman and Gloria Ward of Talihina, Paul and Dian Howard of Muse and the late Rhonda Howard.

Look who's one!

Nahali Stormie LeeAnn Phillips turned one on July 27. She is the daughter of Stephanie Jones and Stephan Phillips of Ft. Smith. She is the granddaughter of Pearl Jones of Red Oak, Albert Jones of Howe and Sam Phillips of Greenwood. Nahali is the greatgranddaughter of Joyce Jones of Talihina

and the late Wilburn Jones Sr., Shirley James and Bill Woodruff of Bengel, and Byres James of Poteau. She has three brothers, Chipper Jones of Talihina and Stanley and Stephan Jr. Phillips of Ft. Smith, and one sister, Stephanie Phillips of Oklahoma City; two special aunts, Melissa Jones of Ft. Smith and Jennifer Jones of Talihina, and two uncles, Wilburn Jones Jr. and Darrin Jones, both of Talihina. All wish her a very happy birthday.

Soccer boy

Danny Betsey II turned seven years old on August 20. Danny's parents are Danny and Linda Betsey of Granby, Missouri. He is the grandson of Shirley of Grandy, Adam Betsey of Atoka, and Annie Betsey of Durant.

Kalin turns two

Belated wishes for a happy second birthday are sent to Kalin Cherish Beller. Kalin was born May 12, 2003, at Talihina. Wishing her a happy birthday are her proud parents, Brandon and Crystal Beller of Durant; grandparents, Nelson and Debra Wesley of Sobol; and her uncles, Tony, Derek, and

Shelden Wesley. Her great-grandparents are Nadine Billy and the late Edwin Billy and Lenis and Elsie Wesley.

Happy birthday, Shelden

Shelden's family would like to wish him a happy birthday. Sheldon, who is the son of Nelson and Debra Wesley of Sobol, turned nine on July 24. He is the grandson of Nadine and the late Edwin Billy and Lenis and Elsie Wesley. Happy birthday from Tony, Derek,

Look who is pretty as a picture

Happy 81st birthday to Ann Tallant of Bakersfield, California. All of her family send a very special birthday wish - daughter, Joyce Tallant; son-in-law, Dave Anderson of Joplin, Missouri; granddaughter, Trinity Hall of Durant; grandson, Tim Rickey and wife, Teresa, of Joplin; grandson, Kenny Rickey and wife, Heather, of Durant; great-grand-

son, Chris Hall of Durant; and great-granddaughters, Ocean Rickey and Cheyanne Rickey, both of Joplin.

Joseph Cunningham celebrates 14th birthday

Congratulations to Joseph Scott Cunningham who celebrated his 14th birthday on June 4. Joseph is the son of Debbie and Steve Cunningham of Tyler, Texas. His grandparents are Lois Wertzberger and the late Jim Wertzberger of Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Joe and Angelyn Cunningham of Norman. Joseph is a descendant of three original enrollees, Matilda Elizabeth Manning, Angeline Rebecca Manning Fox and Ethel Matilda Fox.

May wedding

Kathryn Elizabeth Hesse of Silver Spring, Maryland, and David Anthony Bonorchis of Capetown, South Africa, were married May 19, 2005, at the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, Virginia. Kathryn's parents are Rayburn Hesse of McLean, Virginia, Margaret Blasinsky of Vienna and stepfather Edwin Southerland. David is the son of Ivan and Linda Bonorchis of Capetown and the late Marlene Bonorchis. Kathryn, who is a second-year law student at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and is on the law review, is a descendant of three original enrollees, Matilda Elizabeth Manning, Angeline Rebecca Manning Fox and Ethel Matilda Fox.

Look who's four!

Happy belated birthday, Alex Gibson. Alex turned four years old on August 27. He has an older brother, Matthew, who is five. His parents are Jeana Sewell and Roger Gibson, both of Durant. His grandparents are Velma Martin of Wewoka, Clifford Gibson of Durant, and Barbra Ruggles of Wynnewood.

His great-grandmother is Wilrene Gibson of Stratford.

Congratulations, Cheyanne!

Cheyanne played in the Green Country League this summer and made the 8 and under All Star team. Her family would like to congratulate her on a job well done. Her brothers and sisters are Heather and Amanda Ward and John and JoAnn Samuels. Her niece is Rena Samuels.

Also, happy birthday on July 30!

Look who turned 13

Birthday wishes go out to Kirstin Cheyanne Darling who turned 13 on April 25 from her sisters, Makala and Kelsie Walker.

Kelsie turns seven

Kelsie Jean Walker turned seven on June 12. Happy birthday from Shellie WeWe and Uncle Randy, Ma-Mom and Pa-paw Loftin, all of Atoka.



Happy 95th, Myrtle!

Myrtle Adelia Willey McBroom celebrated her 95th birthday recently. Myrtle was born June 16, 1910, in Newcastle, Oklahoma, the daughter of Orren L. Willey and Josephine (Suds) Bench, an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation. Myrtle now lives in the little town of Fruita, Colorado, where her



children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, family and friends celebrated the occasion. Myrtle thanks everyone for the cards, calls and visits.

Alpha celebrates 79th

Happy birthday to Alpha Cochnouer Uptegrove who celebrated her 79th birthday on August 27 with a trip to Hawaii. She lives in Antioch, California, and is the daughter of original enrollee Henry Cochnouer and granddaughter of Nicholas and Betty Cochnouer, all who grew up south of Boswell.

Happy 61st birthday

Mom, Sarah, Melissa, and Michelle wish Dad (Lynn Beams) a very happy 61st birthday on August 4. Lynn lives in Lytle, Texas, where he is the pastor of Prevailing Word Church and a coordinator for Angel Food Ministries. He is an avid jogger and baseball fan and he is very proud to be Choctaw.

District 2 Princess turns 17

District 2 Junior Princess and first runnerup Miss Choctaw Owa-Chito Princess Sherri Garza turned 17 on July 31. Sherri enjoys playing softball, listening to music, volunteering her time with senior citizens, and learning about her Choctaw heritage. She is the daughter of Sherri Foley-Bohannon and Mike Bohannon of Bethel; granddaughter of Myrtle (Johnico-Foley) King of Oklahoma City and Douglas and Wanda Bohannon of Bethel; and great-granddaughter of Lorency Roberts Johnico and the late Louis Johnico Sr. Happy birthday from all of us!

Birthday wishes

Birthday wishes to Talon "Ta-Ta" Bohannon and his dad, Brandon "Bran" Bohannon, pictured with Jalen Bohannon. Ta-Ta turned four on July 13 and Bran turned 29 on July 28. Happy birthday!





Birthday wishes to Mikala "Kala" Wade-Bohannon who turned 11 on July 1 and to Alexandra "Alex" "A-Rod" Bohannon who turned 12 on July 29. They both enjoy playing softball, basketball, listening to music, and hanging out with their friends and family.

50th anniversary

Phil Kaniatobe and Thelma Strope Kaniatobe of Stilwell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 2, 2005.

roll, Keith Kaniatobe and Kelly





























Crystal, Kalin, Brandon, and Sharon.

Happy birthday

Adreana Shae and Ashayla Jayde of Broken Bow would like to send very special birthday wishes to their daddy, Duke Williams, on August 14. Duke turned 24 years old.

Congratulations, Daddy, on the new job!

Happy birthday

Shayla Osage and her family would like to wish her favorite grandpa a very happy 50-something birthday on September 15. Thomas Smithson is originally from Idabel, but lives in Dallas with his lovely wife, Lulu; their three beautiful kids, Chris,



Crystal, and Patrick; one very special granddaughter, Shayla, and Thomas' buddy, his four-legged pal, Oreo.

Happy birthday

Robert Weaver turns 47 on September 26 and his youngest son, Ryan, turns 20 on September 5. Bob and Ryan both live and work in Dallas, Texas. Their many friends



and family wish them truly wonderful birthdays! Also, congratulations go out to Ryan on his new Camaro!! Happy birthday, guys!



Three celebrate birthdays

Dawn Miller would like to wish happy birthday to her daughter, Katrina Smith, who turned 17 on August 13; her nephew, Gerald Peasha, who turned 18 on August 24, and her great-nephew, A.J. Davis, who turned nine on August 20.

Happy 77th birthday

Happy 77th birthday to Willie LeFlore Floyd from her husband, Paul Floyd, and daughters and sons, Etta Mae, Bonnie Fay, Billie Mize, Tom Mize, Des Cygnes La'Mour; sons-in-law, Elbert and Dale, and all her grandkids and great-grandkids.

Birthday wishes

Happy birthday wishes are sent to Adam Betsey of Atoka. Celebrating his birthday were sisters, sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, grandkids and great-grandkids. Happy birthday, Dad!

Tim turns 32

Tim Rickey of Joplin, Missouri, turned 32 years old on July 20. He works for the State of Missouri. His family are very proud of him and wish him a very happy birthday - from mom, Joyce Tallant; stepdad, Dave Anderson; wife, Teresa Rickey; two daughters, Ocean and Cheyanne Rickey, all of Joplin; his sister, Trinity Hall; nephew, Chris Hall; brother and

sister-in-law, Kenny and Heather Rickey, all of Durant; grandmothers, Anne Tallant of Bakersfield, California, and Janice Walker of Carl Junction, Missouri.

Happy birthday, Jose

Happy 26th birthday on September 3 to Jose P. Machuca from your loving wife, Mattie.

Wedding bells

Mr. Mark Bush of Garvin, Oklahoma, and Ms. Marie Bush of Cornelia, Georgia, announce the engagement and marriage of their daughter, Carrie BreAnn Bush, to Christopher Bret Scrivner, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Danny Scrivner of Haywood, Oklahoma. Carrie is the granddaughter of Vernon and Carolyn Underwood of Wilburton. She is



presently attending SOSU where she is majoring in pre-med. Chris graduated from SOSU with a degree in safety management. They were married in a ceremony held at 7 p.m. August 4 at the Belle Starr Lodge in Wilburton with a reception following. Both employees of the Choctaw Nation, they have made their home in Calera.

Robert Rook celebrates 16th birthday

Robert Rook turned 16 years old on August 10. He lives in Oceanside/Carlsbad, California, with his mother and father. His grandfather, Charles Buford Cranford, lives in Tulsa. Happy birthday!

Happy 38th birthday

Happy 38th birthday to our dad, Lupe Renteria, on August 12, from Jerald, Annie and Jessica.



Kaniatobe, all of Tahlequah. They have one grandson, David Carroll and wife, Wessie, of Oklahoma City, and one great-grandson, Jeron Kaniatobe Carroll of Oklahoma City.

Phil and Thelma Kaniatobe both retired in 1990. Phil was a school administrator and Thelma held positions as a researcher and as a secretary.

Witts are celebrating 60th anniversary

Congratulations to Virgil and Wanda Burris Witt of Oklahoma City on their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married September 15, 1945, in Kingston, North Carolina.

Best wishes

Wishing Ginel Bartleson of Oklahoma a very happy birthday,



Greg and Shawna Mattes a happy 11th anniversary



and also Jeff and Jennifer Heald a happy 11th anniversary, September 17, 18, 19 - from Makayla, Makenzie and Dyllan Heald.



The August birthday gang

Here's wishing my husband, Leonard Brokeshoulder, a very happy and blessed birthday. Also, we wish our niece, Ariana Cheyanne Nikkole Wade "Fussy" Byington a happy first birthday and don't forget our good-looking nephew, Stormy Locke Byington.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Paul Carney on August 4; Sue Jefferson on August 19; Daniel Coley on August 28; and Houston Baker, from a wife, cousin, niece and friend.







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Councilman Mike Amos crowns District 2 Senior Miss Trista Shomo of Broken Bow, Junior Miss Sherri Garza of Bethel and Little Miss Vanessa Jefferson of Bethel.



Renewing vows on 68th anniversary

On August 21, 2005, Thomas H. and Melba Mullins renewed their marriage vows on their 68th anniversary. T.H., as he is commonly known, 89, and Melba, 84, raised six children, Mary Zeltner of Everest, Kansas, Bob Mullins of Raymond, California, Larry Mullins, deceased in 2002, Tom Mullins of Hanford, California, Trudy Sorensen of Clovis, California, and Richard Mullins of Leavenworth, Kansas. They have 16 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren and a very full life. T.H. and Melba, both from Stonewall, Oklahoma, raised their children in Raymond, California.

All of their loved ones would like to wish them a happy 68th anniversary and may there be many more.



68 years young!

Happy birthday to Ruby Roberts of Mc-Curtain. Ruby will celebrate her 68th birthday on September 14. Happy 68th birthday from Tammie, Nellie, Freddy, Marlo, Nadine, David, Gaille, and all of her grandkids and great-grandkids.

Look who's two!

Ty'Ray PoorBuffalo celebrated his birthday with family and his little friends. He turned two years old on May 17. Ty'Ray is the son of Carl and Shanna PoorBuffalo of Ada, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Billy Ray and Marcella Jones and Mickey and Janette Weryackee, and great-grandmother is Martha Jones, all of Broken Bow.

E.J. turns eight

Happy birthday from Papa and Nana to E.J. Leeper who turned eight years old on July 1. E.J.'s parents are Jason Leeper and Bavette Leeper of Mounds, Oklahoma. Ryan Miller, Blake and LaDawn Bazille, Brendon and Brooklyn also want to wish you a happy birthday. You have brought all of us a lot of happy, enjoyable times!

Champion T-ball team player

Jefferson Lee McDonald, 5, just finished his first year in T-ball. His team was the champion of the Kiwanis League in Ada. He is the son of Thalia Walton and Jeff Mc-Donald. Grandparents are Martha and J.C. Hawkins and Ervin Walton, all of Ada, and Nadine McDonald of Sulphur. He is the great-grandson of the late Martha Stick of Ada and the grandson of the late Larry Mc-

Donald of Sulphur. He has two sisters and one brother, all of Ada. Congratulations for a great ball season. You did a good job!

Happy 17th birthday

Marco Antonio Maturino turned 17 years old on August 30. He is the son of Jeanetta and Tony Martinez. His brothers are Jr. Maturino, Joseph, and Sequoyah who will also celebrate an August 30 birthday. Proud parents are Lole and Cleta Mata of Joplin, Missouri. He is the great-grandson of the late Dan and Catherine Sexton. We are very proud of you, Mijo!

Happy third birthday

Connor Wellington Chiles is the son of Marvin and Tracy A. Vincent-Chiles of Ada. Connor celebrated his third birthday on August 15 with a John Deere theme party. He enjoys swimming, playing tractors, rodeos, reading stories and going to Eufaula on the weekends. Grandparents are Alice Finley Vincent and the late Rev. E.L. Vincent Sr. of Shawnee and Alfonzo "Babe" and Queen

Chiles of Eufaula. Connor is the great-great-grandson of original enrollees Joe Finley and Andrew Finley. He has two big brothers, Randall and Cortland.

Happy 50th birthday









An all around cowgirl

Kalyn Lester, a graduate of Antlers High School, has been awarded a scholarship to Connors State College. She will be a member of the CSC Rodeo Team.

Kalyn, pictured with Chief Gregory E. Pyle, has participated in playdays since



she was two years old. She runs barrels, ropes, ties goats, runs poles and team ropes. During high school she competed in OYRA four years, this year winning Sr. Reserve All Around Cowgirl. She also was the Sr. Average Breakaway champ and reserve champion in goat tying and barrels. Kaylin is the daughter of Russell and Kelly Lester of Antlers and Mike and Karen Griffith of Louisiana.

Rodeo athlete wins championship

Jakki Mize, an 11th-grader at Tecumseh High School, was named the Wrangler Breakaway Roping Champion at the Oklahoma High School Finals Rodeo held in Woodward, June 8-12. She was awarded a beautiful Tod Sloan roping saddle and a championship buckle. Jakki also qualified to compete for scholarships and other prizes at the 57th annual National High School Rodeo Finals in Gillette, Wyoming, in July. In addition, Jakki received the American Quarter Horse Association and Bayer Horse of the Year award which included a scholarship and a Tod Sloan saddle breast collar. She was also selected as a member of the Wrangler High School All Star Team. Jakki is



the daughter of David and Rhonda Mize of Earlsboro and the granddaughter of Wayne and Janie Mize of Earlsboro and Buck and Lou Phillips of Smithville. She also competed and assisted as a volunteer at the IFYR in Shawnee.

Happy birthday

Sequoyah Kaine Fixico turned 11 years old August 30. The son of Jeanetta and Tony Martinez, he has three brothers, Jr., Marco, and Joseph. Grandparents are Lole and Cleta Mata, Joplin, Missouri. He is the greatgrandson of the late Dan and Catherine Sexton. We wish you a great birthday! From all your family in Joplin.



The Horn Family presents 27th Annual Gospel Singing

7 p.m. till ? - September 24 Bryan County Community Center South Ninth at the Fairgrounds, Durant Scheduled to perform: Sound of Freedom, Cornerstone, The Texas Girls, Cross Point, The Chisser Family, Grandpa's Neighbors, Gospel Lights, Crosby Family, Glory Road, and many more. M.C.: Johnson Buck For more information, contact Bonnie Horn at 580-579-0091. Free admission • Concession available



64th wedding anniversary

Albert and Nancy White celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on July 26, 2005. They were married in 1941 at Dyer, Arkansas, by the Rev. B.F. England, Church of Christ. They have two children, the late Albert White Jr. and Lynda A. Kropf and Joe Kropf of Gainesville, Texas, and one great-grandson, Dylan Madoux of Oklahoma City. The Whites spent their married life in California and Missouri and retired to Greenwood in 1986. Both attend the senior centers in Greenwood and Lavaca. Albert is proud of his Choctaw heritage.



Golden anniversary

Congratulations to Clyde and Frances Going Neill who are celebrating their 50th anniversary on September 24.

Boys and Girls Club opening in Choctaw County

The Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Oklahoma is opening in Hugo, providing a much-needed program for area young people age 6 to 18. The club offers after-school homework assistance, a computer lab, team sports, a lounge area, board/table games and prevention programs. Sign-up is 9 a.m.-12 noon Tuesdays and Thursdays at the center, 208 E. Jefferson. For more information, please call 580-326-0005. The family of Marsilla Dean Sampson-Sadongei of Grand Prairie, Texas, would like to express their wishes to their "Daughter, Sister, and Auntee" for a beloved happy 50th birthday on September 2.

Look who's one!

Happy birthday to Veronica Lucille Beck-Ruiz. She will be one year old on September 14. "Ronnie" is the granddaughter of Clar Eyelash aka Clarinda K. Wilson; greatgranddaughter of the late Raymond Lee Wilson; and the great-great-granddaughter of the late Walter S. and Maddie Wilson.

Jaron turns two

Jaron Andrew Swearingen turned two on June 24. He is the son of Nicolette Swearingen, the grandson of Willean and Jack Swearingen, and the great-grandson of the late Lena and Isom Wallen, the late Clara Potts and Aria Swearingen. Jaron would like to say "hello" to his Great-Aunt Charlene Chapman and his Aunt Jacki.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday, Bobby Ryan Sublette, from Mom, Garrett, Granny and Papa.

NATIVE NATIONS FOR CHRIST Youth United For Jesus 1st Youth Powwow November 19, 2005 First United Methodist Church - Houston Westchase Beltway 8 and Westpark Exhibition and competition dancing - Schedule -9 a.m.-noon Native American Cultural Festival Noon Gourd Dancing 1-5 p.m. Grand Entry Bear Claw, Host Southern Drum 6-6:30 p.m. Gourd Dancing 6:30 Grand Entry Eagle Point, Host Northern Drum For more information, call Bryan Jacobs 832-877-4657, Tonya Steele-Wade 832-242-5455, or Glenna Kyker Brayton 713-557-8756



15th Annual Bruce Bloodworth Red River Classic 19k



Saturday, September 17 7 a.m. at Mt. Olivet Cemetery Hugo, Okla.

A fun time for all – run or walk! Not a sanctioned run – no prizes awarded. For more information: 580-326-3356 or 580-326-3226





MHS astronomy students visit the Space Center

McAlester High School Astronomy Club recently ventured to the Johnson Space Center as part of the center's school overnight program. Visiting the space center in Houston, Texas, was a project spearheaded by Latisha Wilson, who is the current president of the MHS Astronomy Club. The group participated in classes, VIP tours, touched

lots of hands-on exhibits.

Thirteen students and two sponsors traveled by school vehicles on March 31 and returned two days later on April 2. Phillip Scott and Kathy Anderson were sponsors for the trip which included ten girls and three boys. Those students were Latisha and the astronaut training facili-Wilson, Rachel Norman, Randall

Students and sponsors of the moon rocks, and experienced McGuire, Jessica Cooley, Devon Crain, Julie Wolf, Lindsey Ross, and Melissa England. Also going were Anthony Amelia, Nash Patel, and Randy Killian.

Highlights of the trip included tours of the mission control room, from which the manned lunar missions were directed, ties. Another destination of the Blansett, Megan Beard, Heather trip was the Lone Star Flight

Museum in Galveston. The museum included many of the aircraft from the World War II period and beyond. To top the day off the group took a ferry ride. This gave some students their first-ever look at the ocean. The group returned to McAlester on Saturday, April 2. Financial assistance from the Choctaw and Creek Nations helped to make the trip possible.

Language students recognized at OU

McAlester High School Choctaw Language students were recently recognized at the University of Oklahoma as they received an award in the Film/Video category for their presentation of Stickball and Choctaw Dancing with narration in Choctaw. Pictured are, bottom row, Randy Roe, America Broadway, Katie Lewis and Gerald Peasha; top, Shelby Martin, Matt Hasley, Tuchina Million, Britney Ransome, Brittany Hilburn, Marissa Turner, and Choctaw Language Class Facilitator Ruth Jackson.



Students of Excellence

Latisha Wilson and Tuchina Million, both seniors at McAlester High School, were recently recognized as Students of Excellence at a banquet at the Choctaw Nation hosted by the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of



Kinzel earns BA in communications

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Thomas Emerson Kinzel of Wesley Chapel, Florida, on earning his Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of South Florida.

"I would like to send my deepest appreciation to the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department for supporting me in my endeavor to get a college degree." – Thomas Kinzel

Kuper earns degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Jonathan Jack Kuper on earning a Welding Technology AS degree and Medical Radiography AS degree from the San Jacinto College Central Campus, Houston. He graduated August 12, 2005.

Beene earns PhD in chemistry

Congratulations to Darren L. Beene of Portland, Oregon, who graduated with a PhD in chemistry from California Institute of Technology on July 10. At CalTech, Beene was a member of the Dougherty group in the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. The major focus of the group is expanding chemical understanding of ion channels and







neuroreceptors, which are the molecules of human memory, learning, and sensory perception. The application of this research is the eventual development of pharmaceuticals intended to treat Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and other neurological disorders.

Beene earned a B.A. in English literature from the University of Arizona in 1990, then worked in the fishing industry for three seasons in Cordova, Alaska, traveling in the off-seasons. After a year working in the U.S. Army Von Steuben Hotel in Garmsich, Germany, he returned to Oregon to complete a B.S. in chemistry from Portland State University in 1999. At PSU, he was recognized as Outstanding Organic Chemistry Student of 1998 and Outstanding Chemistry Senior in 1999. He and wife Wendy live with their sons, Maxwell and Beckett, in Portland where Beene has accepted a post-doctoral research fellowship at the Oregon Health & Science University.

Darren is the son of Holly and Leon Beene of Phoenix, Arizona. His recently deceased grandmother, Gertrude K. Beene of Bakersfield, California, was the daughter of original enrollee Jennie Taylor West and the niece of World War I Choctaw code talker Robert Taylor.

Haile is May graduate

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Tracy Lee Haile. Tracy graduated May 7 from the University of Central Arkansas with a Bachelors of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences.



I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department for all of the hard work they carry out to provide students the opportunity for a higher education. I would also like to thank my parents, Ernest and DaNita Haile, for all the love and guidance they have shown me throughout my life.

Owens earns DO degree

Johnie Louis Owens graduated from A.T. Still University of Health Sciences Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine with a degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine on June 4. Johnie is the son of the late James E. Owens and Cindi L. Owens, the grandson of the late Nancy Bell White Hayes, an original enrollee. His family is very proud to extend their congratulations on this achievement.

Sucker majoring in marketing





Five inducted into Oklahoma Indian Honor Society

Five McAlester High School students were recently inducted into the Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society. In order to qualify, students had to maintain a 4.0 grade point average. Students were recognized at a banquet in their honor at Oklahoma City. Pictured are Senior Jeffry Sam, Junior Travis Randell, Sophomores Randilea Nichols and Tim Burns, and Junior Matt Collier.

Two sport All-Stater

Congratulations to Johnny Roberts, an outstanding athlete during his high school years. His senior year proved to be exceptional. He was selected as All-State in both baseball and football at Pryor High School. He received a scholarship to play baseball at Coffeyville (Kansas) Jr. College where he plans to study sports medicine. He had a 3.95 gpa, ranking



13th in his class. His achievements also included National and State Honor Society, Feathers of Many Colors Club, FCA, "Biggest Flirt" of his class, Verdigris Valley All-Conference selection in both football and baseball. His baseball honors and awards are All-State, Grand Lake All Tournament team, first team All-Conference, and All-Star team. He has also accepted an invitation for a tryout with the St. Louis Cardinals organization in Memphis. Out of 40 to 50 prospects he was one of only a handful of high-schoolers to participate. A lefthanded pitcher, he was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays on June 8 as an outfielder. In football, Johnny was selected as All-State linebaker, All-Star team, Mayes County Defensive Player and Offensive Player of the year. He is one of four athletes in Pryor history to rush for over 1,000 yards. He was also recruited by several Division I football schools but his love of baseball overpowered his football career.

Johnny is the son of John and Carla Hudson Roberts of Pryor, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Thurman Hudson of Poteau, Jack and Peggy Masters of Jay, and Bill and Wilma Roberts of Jay. He is the greatgrandson of the late Dixon and Sarah Hudson.

Way to go, Johnny! From your Choctaw family - the Hudsons.

Tribal member opens business

Congratulations to Steve McHenry of Cortez, Colorado, who just opened a new business, Stevie B's Sports, and is enjoying this new chapter in his life immensely.

Ivy graduates from Baylor University

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Lacey Lea Ivy, a May 2005 graduate of Baylor University. She earned her degree in speech communication.

Oklahoma. Latisha is the daughter of Phyllis Wilson. Tuchina is the daughter of Jesse and Ione Million.

Brown receives CNA certification

Sarah Brown, a junior at McAlester High School, has received her Certified Nurse's Assistant certification from the McAlester Kiamichi Technology Center. She is the daughter of Phyllis Frazier.

2005 honor graduate

Congratulations and good luck to Hanna Ritchie who graduated high school this year with a 4.0 gpa and is entering Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College with a business major. She plans to go on to the University of Tulsa Law School. Hannah is the daughter of Mr. Jim Ritchie and Ms. Kim Ritchie of Jay, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Thurman Hud-

son of Poteau and Jack and Peggy Masters of Jay. She is the greatgranddaughter of the late Dixon and Sarah Hudson. Hanna served as vice president of Arvest Junior Bank Board, Stuco representative for Feathers of Many Colors and secretary of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club and Student Council. Her athletic awards include state champion cross-country team. A job well done, Hanna! From your Choctaw family – the Hudsons.

Blanquez earns master's degree

On May 8 at graduate student ceremonies at Loyola Marymount, California, Camille Cunningham Blanquez received a master's degree in marital and family therapy. Celebrating her achievement were her husband, Bobbybee Blanquez (Chiricahua Apache/Kiowa/ Comanche/French); her daughter, Christine Sanchez; parents, Joe and Angelyn Cunningham; and her oldest brother, Steve, with his wife, Debbie, and son, Joseph Scott. Camille is a descendant of three original enrollees, Matilda Elizabeth Manning, Angeline Rebecca Manning Fox and Ethel Matilda Fox.

Congratulations

Lurisha Monet Finger graduated from Westview High School with a 4.0 gpa. She is the daughter of Vanessa and William Finger, granddaughter of Lurahee and Adelard Beliveau, and great-granddaughter of the late Leo and Oda Merryman. Leo Earl was an original enrollee.





Nancy Tucker of Oklahoma City completed her first year of college. She is enrolled at Oklahoma State University-Portland in Oklahoma City. Her major is in marketing and she has a 3.65 gpa. Nancy plans to enter a graphics design program at either Central State University or the University of Oklahoma after



completing her associate degree. She was a 2004 Putnam City West Honors Graduate and was active in the Native American Club serving as a treasurer her freshman year, vice president her sophomore and junior years, and co-president her senior year. She was selected to Who's Who of American High School Students three years in a row and a member of the National Honor Society. Nancy is a published poet and a gifted artist who turned 19 years old on August 6. She is the daughter of Nasha Tucker, granddaughter of Paula Eyachabbe, and sister to Edward Tucker, all of Oklahoma City. Her extended family includes Aunt Victoria and Uncle Mitchell Holder, Anadarko; Aunt Carolyn and Uncle Andrew Wyndham, Killeen, Texas; and Aunt Chloe Eyachabbe of Oklahoma City. She has five cousins, Elissa, Marissa, and Mitchell Holder Jr. and Melissa and Andrew Wyndham Jr.

Brown named salutatorian

Shane Michael Brown was named salutatorian for the Hugo High School graduating class of 2005. He is one of only a handful of graduating seniors in Oklahoma designated as a State Academic Scholar by State Superintendent Sandy Garrett. He was recently honored by Southeastern Oklahoma State University and First United Bank at their annual Tri-County Honors banquet. Shane's



honors have exceeded Oklahoma's borders by his membership in the National Honor Society, Who's Who in American High School Students and the USAA All American Scholar. While a student in high school he served on the student council, was captain of the football team and won medals in multiple powerlifting meets across the state. He is currently enrolled as a student at the University of Oklahoma where he is also being considered for a position with the football team. He plans to study medicine, engineering or law. While awaiting classes to begin this fall he is employed part-time at Wal-Mart. Shane is the son of Cindy Brown of Hugo. His grandparents are Donald and Ruth Wayman of Antlers and nephew of Suzanne and Steve Wayman of Nelson and Keri and Patrick Wayman of Antlers. Shane also has two brothers, Zack and Josh Brown of Hugo.

As a result of his hard work and dedication his future and options in life are limitless. Congratulations, Shane!!!

Ashlei graduates magna cum laude

Jenifer and Kelsey Empson congratulate their sister, Ashlei, as she graduates magna cum laude from college in Lansing, Michigan. Ashlei is enrolled in Kalama-



zoo for the fall. Ashlei is the daughter of Leisa and Scott Empson of Michigan. Her grandparents are Bob and Rita Airington of Woodward. She wants to thank the Choctaw Nation for the scholarship they have given her. This has allowed her to continue her education.



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District 12 citizens presented impressive log creations to Chief Gregory E. Pyle, above, and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, at right, during an Appreciation Dinner held August 18 in Crowder.



District 12 Councilperson James Frazier and wife Vicki.





CoalgateHeadStartDirectorNancyJones made this beautiful cake for the honorees.



Seated at a head table are Councilpersons Hap Ward, Jack Austin and Joe Coley, Mary Coley, Gail Thompson, Councilperson Perry Thompson and Council Speaker Mike Amos. Standing is Travel Plaza Director Brian McClain.

District 12 hosts Appreciation Dinner





President of the National JOM Association Virginia Thomas, Wanda Carney, Alvie Carney, Walter Amos, Lucille Jameson and Lloyd Morris.



Troy and Pat Smith.



Leona Wesley, Paul Wesley, Ima Holden and Geraldine Howard.

Alla Himmita Princess Cherish Wilkerson presents beautifully handmade quilts to Chief Pyle, at left, and Assistant Chief Bailey, at right. Assisting with Bailey's quilt is Crowder Senior Citizen President Concetta Gragg.



Bennington Gear-Up college group visits OSU

Nine students from the Bennington High School Gear-Up College Awareness Summer Program toured the OSU-Stillwater campus in July. The students were accompanied by high school counselor Donna Sleeper, faculty members Sandra Redwine and Tommy McWilliams, and parent Glenda Vansickle. A&M/OSU Regent Lou Watkins of Stillwater also accompanied the group and Bennington native Wes Watkins joined for parts of the visit. The Choctaw Nation loaned the group a large van, making it possible for these sophomores and inniors to visit various colleges in the state.



Student graduates from Ft. Lewis College

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Adria Michelle Stancampiano Beasley. Adria graduated cum laude in May from Fort Lewis College where she earned a degree in Computer Science Information Systems-Liberal Arts with a business minor. Also, congratulations to Adria on her marriage in December 2004 to William Todd Beasley. Pictured are Adria's brother, Frank Patterson; Adria; her mother, Joanmarie Stancampiano, and William.

Apache students excel

Two Apache High School graduates have recently received significant scholarships to attend



Cameron University. Brothers Kerry Glasgow, Class of 2005 Valedictorian, and Kallan Glasgow were awarded for exceptional grade point averages, class rank and the challenging academic courses taken during their high school years. Both passed the national Advanced Placement Calculus Exam while in high school and received ten college credit hours at Cameron for this accomplishment. Kerry also received three additional college credit hours for completion of College Statistics as a senior, a course that is offered by Apache High School's Gifted and Talented Student Program.

The sons of Carletta Glasgow and Israel Morales, the twins will be pursuing degrees in mathematics.



Their academic abilities apparently run in the family. Kerry and Kallan's sister, Katrina, Valedictorian of the Apache High School Class of 2001, received her Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics this spring at Cameron University, and is now pursuing her Master's Degree in Mathematics. She has also received significant scholarships for her outstanding academic achievements. Katrina would like to thank the Choctaw Nation, Larry Wade and the staff of the Higher Education Department for all the help she has received during her college years.

Sorrels participates in selection board

Josiah Sorrels of Springtown, Texas, the son of Joseph and Karen Sorrels, was selected to participate in the American Legion Boys State Selection Board in Austin, Texas, in June. A senior at Springtown High School, Josiah is the grandson of Drucilla Pauline Nelson Sorrels of Farmington, New Mexico. Congratulations!

As part of their OSU experience, the group stopped at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, the only veterinary college in Oklahoma and one of only 28 such colleges in the country. Here they were able to learn more about opportunities for veterinary education and OSU's technology and expertise available for improving agriculture and animal health.

Pictured at the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences are front row, from left, A&M/OSU Regent Lou Watkins, Sandra Redwine, Jesse Jackson, Ashley Boydstun, OSU Vet Med student Valerie Case, Glenda Vansickle and Clay St. John; back row, Tommy McWilliams,

Senior 2005

Lyndsay Anne Harris is a 2005 graduating senior of Kennewick High School in Kennewick, Washington. She is the daughter of Karalee Anne Harris, granddaughter of Bobbie Jean Clark and great-granddaughter of Florence Adair, all of Kennewick; and the great-great-granddaughter of the late Lilly and Dennis Billy. She is also the great-great-

great-granddaughter of the late Simon Billy who was born on the Trail of Tears. Lyndsay was a scholar athlete, maintaining over a 3.2 gpa during her four years of high school. She performed on her high school dance team all four years and was co-captain of the dance team during her senior year. She will be attending Columbia Basin College, Pasco, Washington, this fall, majoring in psychology. Congratulations, Lyndsay! Your family is very proud of all of your accomplishments!

Gonzales earns accounting degree

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Debra K. Gonzales. She graduated in June with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting from Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado.

Congratulations, Heather Rubio

Rebecca Rubio would like to say congratulations to her daughter, Heather Rubio. Heather graduated from high school in May and will be attending Austin College as recipient of the Founder's scholarship. She has worked very hard in school and has an impressive list of accomplishments. Valedictorian of the Bennington Senior Class of 2005, Heather was also reporter of the senior class, vice chair of the Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles Board, recipient of a Certificate of Excellence from South Central American Indian Chamber of Commerce for outstanding achievement in education and president of high school Student Council. She was also president of Bennington chapter of National Honor Society, Kiwanis Senior of the Month for October 2004 and member of Bennington Player's Club. She was a volunteer tutor for the ninth and tenth grade HOST program, for early elementary, and an NHS after-school mentor for at-risk children. Voted "best-dressed" and "most likely to succeed," Heather was co-captain of the fastpitch softball team and a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is listed in the superintendent's honor roll, in the Who's Who national registry, and has won several awards in area curriculum contests. As a junior, Heather served as an Oklahoma State Senate page for Senator Jay Paul Gumm. She has served as outreach coordinator at church and is a member of the church choir.

Justin Musgrove, Donna Sleeper, Macy Vansickle, Thomas Parris, Adam Crissman and Lindsey Trehern. Also with the group, but not pictured, was Holly Porter.

Moffatt attends leadership conference

Thanks to Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Perry and Gail Thompson and the Choctaw Nation for helping to fund the trip for Colby Moffatt to have the opportunity to attend a leadership conference in Washington, D.C. Students from across the nation attended the 2005 Washington Leadership Conference this summer in the nation's capitol. The conference is an activity of the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education. Colby is a member of the Soper FFA chapter. The weeklong program helps FFA members improve their leadership skills and prepare for leadership



roles in their chapters, communities and their future careers. They attended workshop sessions on persuasive communication, chapter leadership and building relationships, and participated in discussions on citizenship.

Brooks continue to support Cameron sports

The family tradition continues in the Brooks household. Jessica Brooks, the daughter of Greg and Stefanie Brooks, has signed a letter of intent to play fast pitch softball at Cameron University, Lawton. Jessica, an Oklahoma All-State High School selection from Blanchard, has played her past two seasons at Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa. She was named to the Dean's Honor Roll this spring. Older brother Cody, who completed his baseball eligibility at Cameron, was selected with Lone Star All-Conference Baseball Honors during his junior and senior seasons. He was also a first team All-Conference selection during his playing tenure at Murray State Junior College. He intends to continue his studies and support his Aggie baseball as a coaching assistant this fall.

The Brooks would like to recognize the Choctaw Nation for its generous support concerning our student athletes who are proud members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



Using a special language

LCDR Charles Travis Beal, USN, is not a code talker in the traditional sense, but he does speak a very special language in the modern war in Iraq. He is a forward observer whose responsibility is to call in and direct air support for ground operations when it is required. The requirements for a forward observer are quite extensive and demanding. First and foremost, he must be a pilot himself. Airborne pilots prefer (read: "will only") take directions from another qualified, experienced pilot. As mentioned, they speak a special language. Secondly, he must have had



the training to know the capabilities of the equipment he is directing (jets, helos, and gunships) and even field and offshore artillery. So this makes for a very special and capable individual.

Travis Beal graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1990. Following that he went on into naval aviation becoming a carrier qualified pilot. But, in truth, Travis is an adventurer. He also became a master parachutist, certified scuba diver, and developed many other related skills. Eventually, he settled into the more established life of an airline pilot. He is based in Atlanta, Georgia, but he and wife Wendy consider their ranch in Kendall County, Texas, as their home.

But Travis is also a patriot. When the war in Iraq begun, Travis joined a Marine Reserve Unit in Florida whose primary function is to coordinate and direct air support to the ground forces. It was with this unit that Travis obtained the necessary training to be a forward observer. This unit was deployed in May 2005 and Travis, a naval officer, was asked to serve with the Marine unit. They are at a base just south of Baghdad called Camp Charlie.



Conn stationed in Baghdad

Sgt. Paul M. Conn, 28, of Lafayette, Louisiana, served with the U.S. Army 4th I.D. from July 1994 until July 1998. He has been a member of the Army National Guard since July 1998. Conn graduated in May 2004 from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with He and his wife have four children, Amanda and Justin, both of a B.S. in Applied Science. He is currently stationed in Baghdad, Iraq, with the 256th Infantry - 1088 Engineering Division.

Veterans compete

Each year veterans compete from across the country in the National Golden Age Games. This year was the 19th year and the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the South Central VA Health Care Network were selected as the host site. Over 500 veterans and 1,400 volunteers participated. The National Veterans Games are an outgrowth of

the Department of Veterans Affairs' historic involvement in geriatric programs. It is the premier senior adaptive rehabilitation program in the United States, and the only National Seniors Program designed to improve the quality of life for all older veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities.

The Choctaw Veterans Association contributed to this event. Nellie Hunter, Secretary/Treasurer, volunteered one week as representative of the CVA. Anyone interested in more information about the CVA may contact Nellie Hunter, P.O. Box 116, Tupelo, OK 74572.

Whitewright hires new police chief

Whitewright, Texas, has a new police chief. Jason Wall, 37, took over the position on July 1 and comes with 17 years of law enforcement experience with University of Texas police departments.

He was hired by Whitewright after working for more than ten years with the UT-Dallas Police Department where he reached the rank of lieutenant. There he was responsible for the efficiency, morale and motivation of officers. He has experience in supervision, bike patrol programs, investigation and the paperwork involved in bringing a criminal offense to prosecution. He also created a computer database for the UT-Dallas PD's record system.

Prior to that Wall worked for more than six years with the UT-Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas PD. There, he worked as patrol officer, investigator, and with crime prevention programs such as Explorers.

After graduating from Antlers High School, Wall obtained his Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Peace Officer Certifications and is a Drug Enforcement Agency certified drug investigator. He has 1,800 hours of law enforcement training and more than 290 hours of supervision. He is also experienced in firearms training, Special Response (tactical) Team work, budgets and grant writing.

Currently working with Wall are full-time officers Dennis Robison, Susan Armstrong, and Russell Alford as well as several reserves.

Wall is married and has two daughters, Ashleigh, a seventh-grader, and Sarah, a third-grader at Whitewright ISD. His wife, Bonnie, is employed at WISD. His parents are Hershel and Sharmayne Wall of Antlers.

Ardese is Preflight Instructor of the Year

Nominated by Naval Aviation Schools Command, Major Tray J. Ardese has been chosen Preflight Instructor of the Year. Ardese serves as the Aviation Training School Assistant Department Head, a Preflight Engines and Systems Instructor, and an Associate Flight Instructor for VT-86. He provides dynamic leadership to over 20 flight instruc-

tors and over 300 students mustering daily. During fiscal year 2001, he logged over 175 hours of instructional flight time. He is continuously lauded on student critiques as an outstanding instructor and role model, both in the classroom and in the air. Additionally, he devotes himself substantially to the community and to command sports teams. He was named instructor of the year for 2001 for the Lions Club.

Ardese is the son of William Joe Amos Jr. and Raylene Ardese.



Nursery News

Sherwin Wayne Embery Jr.

Sherwin Wayne Embery Jr. was born at 6:06 p.m. on March 20, 2005, at Southwest Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces and measured 18.5 inches long. Proud parents are Kinisha Kaie Scott and Sherwin Embery Sr. of Shawnee. Grandparents are Chauntel R. Vincent and Sullivan Scott



of Oklahoma City. He is the great-grandson of Alice Finley Vincent and the late Rev. E.L. Vincent Sr. of Shawnee and the greatgreat-great-grandson of original enrollees Joe Finley and Andrew Finley.

Cadence Marisue James

Cadence Marisue James was born on Mother's Day, May 8, 2005, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, Talihina. She weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Her mother is Crystal Hampton James of Talihina. Proud grandparents are Pamela Beddo of Talihina



and Ron and Leatha Hampton of Boswell. Great-grandmothers are Grace Hampton of Boswell and the late Mary Sue Owen of Unger. She has many loving aunts, uncles and cousins, Jennifer and Rusty Turner of Ashland, Ron Jr., Marcia, Tyler and Kylee Hampton of Boswell, Ryan Hampton of Boswell and Israel, Krista, Virginia and Ethan Beddo of Unger. Special thanks and love to Andrew Cole and family of Hugo.

Colton Aaron Joseph James

Colton Aaron Joseph James was born June 4, 2005, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. He weighed 6 pounds 12 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Proud parents are Anthony and Tina James. Grandparents are Harry and Carol James and the late Lawrence and Oatle Samuel, all of Talihina. Colt has one brother and two



sisters, Chris, Lindsay and Landry. The family would like to extend their gratitude to friends and family for making Colton's arrival a welcome one.

Bryce Raymond Harrison

Proud Papa and Pokini, Bill and Theresa Harrison of Bakersfield, California, are announcing the birth of a new grandson. Bryce Raymond Harrison was born July 20, 2005, weighing 6 pounds 14 ounces



and measuring 21 inches long. Parents are Billy and Andrea Harrison of Bakersfield. Bryce has one sister, Alyssa, and a proud aunt, Vicki Harrison.





Mecom honored by Choctaw Tribe, VFW

During his 80th birthday celebration, held at the VFW Post 1022 at Coffeyville, Kansas, Barney Mecom was presented with honors by both his family, on behalf of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the VFW. His son, Richard Mecom, USNR-Retired, presented the elder Mecom with a certificate of appreciation from the Choctaw Nation, along with a medal honoring him as a Choctaw veteran. VFW member Vernie Stallings presented Mecom with a hat adorned with a miniature Purple Heart and miniature Combat Infantry Badge which Mecom earned in the Korean War. During World War II, Mecom served on the Army Ski Team in Switzerland.

Mecom's father, Tom Mecom, served in the U.S. Army during World War 1; Mecom served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean War; his son, Richard, served in the U.S. Navy during Vietnam, Desert Storm and Desert Shield; and his grandson, Richard Jr., is now serving in the U.S. Navy in Iraq.

Pictured, Mecom poses with his certificate and medals next to friends and family. From left are Stallings, Post Commander Ron Thorpe, Post Service Officer Gordon LaForte, son Richard, Mecom, member Glenn Barlow and former State Commander Jay Ritchie.



The Masonic Funeral Team of Grand Lodge of Texas, 64th District, is pictured at Greenwood Cemetery in Ft. Worth. Members are Calvin Draper, Choctaw tribal member formally from Wilburton; Jim Northcutt, Ray Holt, Neil R. Lindsey, R.H. Rastall, who is the husband of Joy Bigger Rastall formerly of Wapanucka; and Donald Park.

McAlester, and Ethan and Brock of Lafayette, Louisiana. He is the great-grandson of original enrollees Eastman Amos, Rosa Jefferson Amos and Gladys Donnelly.

He is currently stationed at Al Asad Air Base, west of Baghdad. They have logged over 3,000 hours of flying time since going to Iraq, supporting ground troops and other missions.

Soldiers appreciate strong support base

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you so very much for your support of our battalion and sending us a care package. It is nice for the soldiers to be reminded of how much people at home care about them. At times this deployment can be hard on the soldiers of 3-21 IN and strong base of support from wonderful people like you keep us focused on why we are here: for protecting our freedom and providing for those that do not have the freedoms we sometimes take for granted.

On behalf of the Gimlet Battalion, we want to thank you for your kindness!

We are continuing to make a positive impact on the Iraqis daily by making Iraq safer and giving them the opportunity to be free.

We are doing well, and our spirits are high, partly due to the fact that wonderful people like you are showing their support! It means a lot to the soldiers that we have the strong support base from great people like you!

> Danny Williamson, CSM Michael L. Gibler, LTC, Infantry Commanding

Elwell makes tribal history as youngest DOD intern

An 18-year-old Oklahoma City man is making tribal history this summer as he interns for the U.S. Department of Defense as the youngest Native American ever to serve in such capacity. Nathaniel David Elwell is one of 550 selected nationwide by the Wash-

ington Center to be placed with a federal governmental agency in Washington, D.C. Elwell is one of only 60 selected for placement at the DOD where he will work at the Pentagon in Acquisitions, Technology, and Logistics for a 10-week period between May and August. Nathan just completed his freshman year of college at the Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Missouri. He is a U.S. Army ROTC 2+2 scholarship recipient which means the first two years of college, as a freshman and sophomore, are spent at Wentworth, and his junior and senior years will be at Central Missouri University. College graduation will be followed by a four-year tour of active duty, as a second lieutenant commissioned officer, and then four more years of inactive duty.

He is the son of Kenneth Elwell Jr. of McAlester, Oklahoma, and Karen Impson Elwell of Yukon, Oklahoma. The grandson of Hiram Impson Jr. of McAlester, his great-grandfather, Hiram Impson Sr., was an original enrollee. Nathan has one sibling, Rachel Elwell, of Oklahoma City who recently returned from a yearlong tour of duty in Afghanistan. Nathan credits his sister for instilling in him at an early age a healthy sense of academic competition and says it is in her footsteps that he plans to follow in the U.S. National Guard when he begins his active duty assignment.

Anna Loren Pearson

Kellie Annette and Larry Lee Pearson would like to announce the birth of their baby girl, Anna Loren Pearson. She was born at 3:40 a.m. May 23, 2005,



at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. Delivered by Joni Yarnell and a wonderful nursing staff, Anna weighed 6 pounds .05 ounce and was 17.75 inches long. She has a half-sister, Amber Lynn Wade of Altus, Arkansas. Her grandparents are Patricia Ann Kelly and William Joseph Maraventano and Doloris Ann Wilder and the late Arthur Lee Pearson. Betty J. Detamore of Spiro is her greatgrandmother.

Aidan Kristopher Smith

Jeremy and Erin Smith of Mansfield, Texas, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Aidan Kristopher Smith. He was born at 8:39 a.m. on June 10, 2005, in Arlington, Texas. He weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. He has one very proud big brother, Tanner Smith. Proud grandparents are Donna Estep of Rockwall, Texas, David and Marci Es-



tep of Hugo and Danny and Linda Smith of Blossom, Texas. Proud great-grandparents are Foy and Louise Rhodes of Hugo, Gene and Sandra Oyler of Paris, Texas, Margaret Spann of Blossom, D.W. and Jocquetta Smith of Blossom, and Delvin and Deloris Schulz of Paris. There is also one proud great-great-grandparent, Mary Loeta Neal of Oklahoma City.

Jalen Danielle Spears

Clyde Ray and Angela Spears announce the birth of a daughter, Jalen Danielle, born at 7:57 a.m. April 22, 2005, at McAlester Regional Hospital. She weighed 7 pounds 1 ounce and was 19.5 inches long. Jalen joins sisters Caitlin, 10, and Shaina, 3. Grandparents are Clyde Wayne and Alice Ann Spears of



Gowen, Delbert and Carla Derryberry of Wilburton and Bruce and Jane Buffington of Hartshorne.

Eli Curry Walters

Proud grandmother Judy Kirkes Lightie is announcing the birth of a new grandson. Eli Curry Walters was born June 28, 2005, weighing 5 pounds, 12.5 ounces and measuring 18.5 inches long. Proud parents are Dusty Kirkes Walters and Shan Walters. Eli has one fouryear-old brother, Levi Bronc, and an eight-year-old sister, Denstiny Ann. They live in Dover, Oklahoma.



REUNIONS

ANDERSON

A reunion of the decendants and other relatives of John and Ruth Anderson of Talihina, Oklahoma, is planned to coincide with the 2005 Choctaw Labor Day Festival. Especially honored will be Doris Rae Anderson (Thompson) Birkey of Montevideo, Minnesota, who will celebrate her 70th birthday during the visit.

A picnic is planned for the afternoon of September 4 at the Horse Haven near Talihina, where many of the family will be staying. Friends and relatives are encouraged to stop by for a visit.

McDANIELS/WESTBROOK

The McDaniels/Westbrook Reunion is set for September 10 at the home of Clora "Dude" and Cecil Brooksher in Pico Rivera, California, with cohosts Bondie and Wanda Brooksher.

Over 100 family members from Georgia, Oklahoma, Texas, Oregon, Arkansas, Missouri, Arizona, and California are planning to attend. For more information, please call Dude at 562-949-5759 or Bondie at 562-949-5665.

EMEYABBI-BILLY-WESLEY-ISCHOMER

A family reunion starts at 10 a.m. September 16 with a family gathering and preaching by Horn Family of Durant; Friday night: Elum J. Wesley's house, Kanawka, Texas.

On Saturday, September 17, supper will be at 5:30 p.m., followed by an hour of preaching by Luke Battiest of Wright City. Gospel singing starts at 7:30 with featured groups, the Tribesmen of Antlers, the Kinsmen of Wright City, and many more. M.C. is Truman Jefferson.

For more information call 580-286-9216. Bring your lawn chairs.

FRANKLIN-TERRELL

It's time for family, food and fun again! Bring your favorite covered dish and recipe (if you like) and favorite game.

Where: (Wilburton) Robber's Cave State Park Shelter # 2

When: September 24, 2005, from 11:00 a.m. until ??.



Descendents of Ruben and Annie Lee Bowden gather at the Greenville School for their annual reunion.

Reunion dedicated to maternal Indian heritage

The family reunion of the Ruben and Annie Lee Bowden descendants began the celebration of their mother's Indian heritage both in song and dance on June 11, 2005, at the Greenville School cafeteria. Original enrollee Annie Lee Williams Bowden gave birth to ten children who now share in the blood of 100 direct descendants. Because this would have been her 100th birthday year, family members decided to have their annual reunion as a dedication to their mom and her Choctaw Indian heritage.

Annie Bowden was born October 21, 1905, in Frogville, Oklahoma. She married Ruben Bowden on April 23, 1922, and eventually settled in southern Oklahoma. Together they raised their children while working firleds. Mr. Bowden was employed by Ben Franklin Refinery, Ardmore. All ten children are living and have spent most of their lives on the red earth of Oklahoma.

The original Bowden children culminated their thoughts and wrote a book depicting many childhood memories. Pictures included in the book were of their homeplaces; some of which were of Indian allotted land. Each child was given a copy along with the dedication to their mom.

Festivities began with Choctaw Nation Princess Stephanie Horn giving the opening welcome and Choctaw language instructor Etta Postoak Johnson reciting the Lord's Prayer in Choctaw. Former Chickasaw Princess Kasie McDonald performed the Lord's Prayer in sign language.

Family members representing six states ascended on the grounds. Those in attendance included Claudia Bowden, Felecia, Jeff and Altan Turnbow, Russelville, Arkansas; Jim and Frankie Bowden, Ryan and Ryley Bowden, all of Oklahoma City; Bill and Darlene Bowden, Bob and Sheran Bowden, Alta Mapp, Brenda Clinton, and Charles and Marcia Bowden, J.R., Jessie, Nicole, Robert, Russell, Paxton, Jerren, Thurston,

Dalton and Willie Bowden, all of Ardmore; Jean Cullum, Mead; Bill and Novella Shebester and Sherry Lowery, all of Lebanon; Gladys Holt and Ron Holt, both of Stillwater; Jim and Bobbie Bowden, Alicia, Alex and Bryce Bowden, Choctaw; Paula Phillips, Biloxi, Mississippi; Dennis and Carol Cullum, Daniel and Julie Cullum, Durant; Amie Cadle Hayes, Gastonia, North Carolina; Shawna Phillips Taylor and Zane Taylor, Hogansville, Georgia; Vicky and Cole Faith, Tulsa; Lauren Lee, Norman; Bryan Lee, Harrison, Tennessee; Bobby Tracy, Anzlee and Paizlee Szenansi, Madill; Randy Holt, Guthrie, and Robert and Missy Bowden, Moore.

The Bowden family wishes to thank the Choctaw Nation and Chief Gregory E. Pyle's cooperation and consideration for the reunion. Also, special thanks to Sue Folsom, Etta Postoak Johnson, Kenneth Baptiste, Sommer Wall, Frankie McCullough for preparing Indian tacos, and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Headquarters Library.

September 2005, BISHINIK, Page 11 District 11 Outstanding Seniors

Walter Amos and Claudean Pocahontas Simmons Everett are this year's Senior Elders for Choctaw District 11. Giving of themselves to their community just comes naturally for Walter Amos and Claudine Everett. District 11 of the Choctaw Nation recently recognized the two for their efforts as its outstanding elders for 2005. Their fellow elders and Councilman Bob Pate chose them.

Amos is retired from the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. and the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. He is an Army veteran of World War II and is a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is also a Mason. A member of the Salvation Army Church, he serves on the church council and is a volunteer. He is also a member of the League of Mercy, where he helps with nursing home visitations. At the age of 79 he still mows the church property, does maintenance and clearing work at the church. He also helps with setting up and taking down air conditioners for the elderly and disabled. He is a bell-ringer at Christmas time and delivers meals for



the McAlester Community Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. In addition he volunteers at the Crowder Choctaw Nation Senior Program. What McAlester might know Amos best for is his devotion to the McAlester High School Buffalo football team. He can be found at the games each Friday night. Amos and his wife, Sarah, have eight children, twelve grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Everett is retired from the Anesthesia Department of McAlester General Hospital. She was also nurse anesthetist for the McAlester Clinic and a pediatric nurse for Dr. Thurman Shuller. She is an active member of the Democratic Party and AARP of McAlester. Everett also takes part in special events, luncheons and trips with the Choctaw Nation Senior Citizen Center. As a 50-year member of the Victory Park Baptist Church, she teaches in the junior and ladies' classes and at Bible School. She is a church camp volunteer. One of her major works as a volunteer is with the church's soup kitchen. She has helped with the kitchen for 19 years. She was married to the late Ralph Everett. She has a son and two granddaughters.

Gibson, Pope families hold annual reunion

Family and friends of the late Adam and Winnie Pope Gibson had a reunion at the Choctaw Community Center in McAlester. All five of the surviving children were present. Several relatives from Wewoka and California attended for the first time.

Coming from the McAlester area were Jim and Marie Gibson, Bud and Clara Gibson Blevins, Ann Gibson Smith, Ada Gibson Lusk, Doug and Althea Gibson Johnson, Janie Gibson Lampkin, Steve and Diane Gibson, Sondra Gibson, Rachelle and Chloe Hatcher, Dick and Regina Blevins Steele, Deana Blevins Wilson, Randall and Shanda Wilson, Nathan

Steele, Hillary Compton, Joan Blevins, Kathy Blevins Falkenstein, Robert Smith, Augusta Reagan, Melissa Johnson, Margie Southard and Rainey, Lottie Turney, Frankie Brewer, Oliver and Pat Johnston, Buddy Cook and Debbie, John and Earlene Cook, Robert, Tammy, Kyle and Trey Karr, Betty Karr, Walter Amos, Victoria Buretta, Junior Loony and Steven and Laura, Walker, Stillwater; Terri Walker, Bristow; Author Southard and Norma Grant, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico; Wade and Debbie Dunagan, Blackwell; Ruth Ann Beck, Carthage, Missouri; Rob, DeLana and Ethan Bohn, Fauke, Arkansas.

Also, Lee, Levi, Auston and Jimmy Pruitt, Blackwell; Leslie, Cindy and Les Jr. Gibson, Shawnee; Lisa, Chance and



Have any questions, please contact Wynoka Byington Brokeshoulder 918-423-6170 or Henry and Lisa Byington 918-423-7470. See you there...

ROBERTS

The 51st Annual Roberts Reunion will be held September 24 at Coalgate, Oklahoma, from 11 a.m. till ? Please bring a covered dish and a bingo prize. For more information contact Osborne or Christine Roberts at 580-927-3342.

JONES

A family reunion for descendants of Cephus Jones, Betty Jones Thompson, Reba Jones Meashintubby, and Wilburn Jones will begin at 9 a.m. September 24 at the 45th Infantry Park, Greathouse Drive, Atoka, Oklahoma.

Come enjoy the day with family you haven't seen in a long time! Bring your favorite potluck dish, dessert and drinks. For those who can't cook, bring paper cups, plates, plastic ware, and napkins. We can use several ice chests filled with ice. The park has a playground and free train rides for the kids, and there will be games of all kinds for "kids" of all ages!

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing all of you.

For more information or directions, call Eldeen and Evalgeline at 580-364-0399 or 580-364-3237 or Kathy Leach at 972-926-7357.

JOHNICO

The Johnico Family Reunion will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. October 22 at the Richard Harder Senior Citizen Building, 712 Railroad St. in Talihina. The reunion will have a Halloween theme – come with a mask, costume or just as yourself. Please bring a covered dish item. Coffee is furnished.

For more information, please contact Myrtle King, 1023 S.W. 38th St., Apt. C, Oklahoma City, OK 73102; or 405-634-6786.

Ricky and Lee Gibson.

Coming from out of town were Walter, Carl and Carl Jr. Gibson, San Pablo, California; John and Susan Scharph, La Mesa, California; Lamon and Donna Pope, Mayer, Arizona; Raymond Pope, Ardmore; Kendall, Peggy and Gage Steele, Bristow; Tami Chellse Gibson, Shawnee; Mattie, Wilbur and Robert Jr. Starr, Wewoka; Reubin, Francis, Meleigha and Siah Starr, Eufaula; Robin and Jessie Starr, Wewoka; Eugene and Andrea Herrod, Eufaula; and Hixton, Rebecca, Austin and Alex Hicks, Wetumka.

NOTICE

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) requests assistance in obtaining current addresses for Individual Indian Money (IIM) beneficiary account holders. Following is a list of names of IIM account holders whose addresses are not current in the OST Trust Funds Accounting System. Each beneficiary identified has trust funds that need to be distributed upon receipt of a valid, current address. Please call toll-free 1-888-OST-OTFM (678-6836), Ext. 392 or mail to Trust Program Management Center, 4400 Masthead Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

Louise (Wesley) Aaron Rebecca M. Adams Christina R. Amos Clayson Dell Amos Morris W. Amos Jr. Carolyn J. Anderson Lydia A. Angle Tony R. Apala Tommy J. Apala Jr. Sicily Austin June (Tims) Baker Barbara Battiest Tycene Battiest Valerie Battiest Incy (Fobb) Billy Charles D. Bohanan Wanda L. Bohanan Leann Bond Randy L. Bond Lee A. Bond Jr. Harold R. Bryant Bonnie J. Burgess Davis Butter Doyle Carney Billy Ray Carney Jr. Jacquline Catron Ellie Christie Alicia Clark aka Alesha Clark Betty Clay Gena Mae Clifton Robert A. Cooper Elwood C. Corbett Richard D. Daney Jr. Agnes N. Davis Jeri (Hudson) Dickson Dewayne P. Eagle Dora Eitel Houston L. Fobb Jr. Arthur D. Fulton Edgar Fulton Pauline Gibson Stephanie (Apala) Gravitt Irene (Stallaby) Greenberg

Steve Ann (Harrington) Gross Virgil W. Harley Betty J. Harris Clifford Hill Jr. Henryetta C. James Holman **Catherine James** Doretha J. James Kristele S. James Verna L. James David Jefferson Lizzie Jones Mary M. Jones Wanda Mae Jones Edna Kent Timothy Lake Oscar Lambness Peter Lambness aka Lombness Sandra Leonard Kenneth R. Lewis Robert N. Lewis Joe Lockler Harvey R. Marris William C. Martin Lafonda Matthews Michael E. McCaully Joseph McClure Kathleen McClure Anna L. McNoel Stanley Morris aka Stanley Wallace Diantha Noah Eleanor (Ashalintubbi) Pearce Johnny D. Phillips McCoy Pistubbee Lisa D. Pope Phyllis A. Pope Robert S. Pope Calvin Postoak Jana D. Rabke Carla M. Reese Harold Robinson Iva M. Robinson Lawrence Robinson

Carolyn A. Rooker Jason Rowl Louise (Willis) Roy Randell G. Sam Vonita L. Samuel Claire S. (Caldwell) Sewell Christy Shoemaker Sophia (Speaker) Skelton Barbara Sloan Clarence L. Smith Jeanne M. (Amos) Smith Jimmy Smith Sharon G. Star Deborah E. Taylor Earl D. Taylor Franklin Taylor Howard L. Taylor Nancy A. Taylor Rhoda M. Taylor Wallace Bird Tekubie Levi James Tekubie Jr. Rita M. (Starkey) Thacker Norma C. Thompson Joyce (Sockey) Thrower Debbie Rice Unap Helen Wallace Sam Wallace Troy D. Wallace Mary Walters Edward Washington Gwendolyn (Going) Waterman Daisy Watson (in trust) Walter R. Wells William J. Wilkerson Naomi Willie Elias J. Wilson Gwendolyn Wilson Victor N. Wilson Virgil A. Winlock Renn L. (Wilson) Wylie Margaret (Francis) Ybarra Claudine Young

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OBITUARIES



Nathan Daniel 'Nate' Lime

Nathan Daniel "Nate" Lime of McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away July 17, 2005, in McAlester. He was born August 22, 1982, in Talihina, Oklahoma, to Timothy Lime and Rebecca Kemp Clayton.

Nate worked for Atlantic Meeco as a laborer in the EPS department. He enjoyed spending time with his daughter and was an artist.

He was preceded in death by a sister,

Tiffany Dawn Lime; grandmother, Yolanda Green, and an uncle, Curtis LeFlore.

Survivors include his father, Tim Lime and wife, April, of Woodward, Oklahoma; mother, Becky Clayton and Tracy Moore of McAlester; daughter, Nadia Dawn Lime of McAlester; brothers, Derek Clayton and Zachary Clayton, both of Alderson; Hunter Lime of Woodward; grandfathers, Ruben Kemp of McAlester and Maurice Lime of Canton, Oklahoma; grandmother, Novella Kemp of McAlester; several aunts, uncles, cousins, and other family and friends.

Cameron Wolfe Hodge

Cameron Wolfe Hodge, 6, of Waldron, Arkansas, passed away July 21, 2005, in Waldron. He was a student and was of the Christian faith.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Earl Hodge, Arthur Morehead, Arizona Elizabeth Morehead, David Bond, Caroline Bond, Laverne Edwards and Raymond Watson.

Survivors include his parents, Alvin and Sheala Hodge of Waldron; brother, Jordan Arthur Hodge of Waldron; grandparents, Alvin R. Hodge of Waldron, Ledora Annette Perryman of Russellville, Arkansas, and George R. and Daisy Mae Watson of Watson, Oklahoma; great-grandmother, Winnie Hodge of Dallas, Texas; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Helen LaVerne Hale Randolph

Helen LaVerne Hale Randolph passed away June 17, 2005. She was born August 4, 1923, in Rush Springs, Oklahoma, the daughter of Gladys Ivy McAdoo Hale and Olie Webster Hale. She graduated from Rush Springs High School in 1941. She and Arthur Randolph were married November 28, 1940. They had been married 62 years at the time of his



death on August 13, 2002. LaVerne was also preceded in death by her mother in 1928; her father on June 15, 1982; and her stepmother, Lillie Hale, on November 17, 1991.

Survivors include her daughter, Loretta Randolph Wright, and her husband, Winfred, of Oklahoma City; two brothers, Olie Junior Hale of Rush Springs, and Archie Hale of Abilene, Kansas; numerous nieces, nephews, and a multitude of longtime friends, most of whom she met during the 55 years in the car business and antique collecting, which was her passion. One of her greatest joys was giving to others with a heart of gold. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Chickasha, Oklahoma. Those of us who were blessed by knowing LaVerne will miss her beautiful smile and her unforgettable distinctive laugh. She was a loving, devoted wife and a precious mother as well as a great friend to many. She was loved

George Franklin Samis

George Franklin Samis, 72, of Sulphur, Oklahoma, passed away June 15, 2005, in Oklahoma City. He was born September 27, 1932, in Pickens, Oklahoma.

A member of the Bullard Chapel Baptist Church in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, he grew up in Pickens and attended Pickens Schools. He worked most of his life as a stone mason, and in later years was a bus driver for the Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur.

He married Guylene Bessie Bailey on October 13, 1998, in Gainesville, Texas. She survives at the home.

Other survivors include a sister, Azelle Vaughn of Mill Creek; three brothers, John Samis of Sulphur, Harold Samis of Mill Creek and Wayland Samis of Cache; five stepchildren; eight grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by four sisters, Mary Haney, Dorothy Morris, Avis Samis and Lucy Samis; and three brothers, Lewis, Harry and Henry Samis.

Robert Payne Page

Robert Payne Page, 85, of Lexington, Oklahoma, passed away July 14, 2005, at the Lexington Nursing Home. He was born September 4, 1919, in Poteau, Oklahoma, the second child of seven born to Edward E. Page and Lela Wyndom Page.

Robert grew up in Poteau and in Bentonville, Arkansas. He graduated from Poteau High School in 1940 and he en-

listed into the U.S. Army on October 15, that same year. After nearly a year in the regular Army he transferred to the Army Air Corps. Robert served his country as a radio operator, flying over Germany in a B-24 during World War II. In April 1944, he was assigned to the 442nd Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, England, completing 30 combat missions before returning to the United States in November 1944. Sgt. Page participated in the Air Offensive, Europe, Normandy, Southern France, Northern France, and the Rhineland's campaigns for which service he was awarded five battle stars.

After the war he returned home to Poteau where he met and married Billie Jean Pitchford. They were married on August 17, 1945, in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Robert re-enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1947 to begin a career that totaled 22 years. For several years he flew as a radio operator on a B-36 while stationed at Carswell AFB in Ft. Worth, Texas. Throughout his years in the military his family moved all over the United States, Japan and Taiwan.

Page flew in over 70 combat missions and was commended by the Commander, Headquarters McClellan Air Force Base for the years of loyal service to his country during war and peace.

He was honorably discharged on July 1, 1964, and late that year they moved to Lexington. While living in Lexington he began working for Civil Service at Tinker Air Force Base. He retired from Tinker in 1982 and started enjoying his lifelong passion, playing golf nearly every day. He also enjoyed fishing, spoiling his grandchildren, and being with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Jean Turnipseed, and a brother, Jacob Page.

Survivors include his wife of the home; two sons, Jacob Page and wife, Belinda, of Dallas, Texas, and Allen Page and wife, Janet, of San Antonio, Texas; two brothers, Bill Page and wife, Delores, and Don Page, all of Oklahoma City; two sisters, Charlotte Dedmon of Oklahoma City and Betty Wray of Odessa, Texas; four grandchildren, Zachary, Megan, Robert and William "Bill" Page; and many nieces, nephews, and other loving relatives and friends.

Stewart B. Shannon

Stewart B. Shannon passed away September 21, 2004, in Portland, Oregon.

Stewart was a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who treated veterans with combat trauma. He specialized in leading-edge energy psychology modalities to free his clients from their suffering. Stewart was highly regarded by both peers and clients for his therapeutic skills. He was revered by family and friends for his compassion, non-judgmental nature, and extraordinary strength and courage.

Stewart was the grandson of Rennie Taylor Shannon of Durant, Oklahoma, and son of Thompson Lewis Shannon, both deceased. Survivors include his wife, Ann; their bereaved daughters, Julie E. Shannon and Lisa J. Shannon; granddaughter, Aria Shannon, and his brother, Davis S. Shannon, all of Portland, Oregon.

Laura Wilson Taylor

Laura Wilson Taylor, the daughter of Nicey Watson and Gardner Wilson, was born July 19, 1929, in the Bethel community and raised there in a Christian home with two sisters, Gladys and Dorothy, and two brothers, Emerson and Walter. Laurabel was educated at Wheelock Academy, then Dwight Mission, graduated from Sallisaw High School, attended College of the Ozarks-Clarksville, Arkansas, San Francisco State College, and University of Central Oklahoma.

She was a perfect mom to her sons, Roy Jr. of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Kyle Edward of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and to her daughter, Beverly of Glenpool, Oklahoma. She had a great influence on her ten grandchildren of Pawnee-Choctaw-Euchee-Creek-Irish-Polish-German descent.

Laura was retired from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, counseling center as a test examiner. She supervised all testing for college entrance to the university.

She married Roy Taylor on April 12, 1953, at Reno, Nevada. They were married until her unexpected death on June 21, 2004, at Tucumcari, New Mexico. Her granddaughter, Joy, the daughter of Dr. Jim Harjo and Beverly, died at the same time.

Carl Richard Ferrall

Carl Richard Ferrall, 57, passed away May 1, 2005, in Oklahoma City. He was born March 11, 1948, to John A. and Newana Crowder Ferrall.

He joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 17 and served his time in Vietnam. He was a carpenter by trade for the past 30 years. He was very proud of his heritage and membership in the Choctaw tribe.



He was preceded in death by his father; grandfather, Carl A. Crowder, and grandmother, Nellie Madden Crowder.

Survivors include a son, Miah Still Ferrall of Denver, Colorado; three half-brothers, Wayne and Dennis Ferrall of Texas and Steve Ferrall of Opelousas, Louisiana; two half-sisters, Cynthia Martin of Opelousas and Linda Salzor of Texas; his mother of Oklahoma City; one aunt, Pat Crowder Armstrong of McLoud, Oklahoma, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Martha Lou 'Marty' Grubbs Bell

Martha Lou "Marty" Grubbs Bell passed away June 4, 2005, at her home in Temple, Texas. She was born December 11, 1941, to





by many and will be missed greatly.

LaHoma Fisher Ott

LaHoma Fisher Ott, 54, of McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away July 11, 2005, at a local nursing center. Born March 7, 1951, in Talihina, Oklahoma, she was the daughter of Anias and Matilda Thompson Fisher. She had lived in McAlester all of her life and attended the Eufaula Indian Boarding School. She married Herman Ott on August 14, 1973, in Poteau, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her father and her husband.

Survivors include her mother; one daughter, Tracy Jean Fisher; one son, Bobby Lee Fisher; four sisters and spouses, Verna and Richard Watt of Kansas City, Missouri, Mary and Tommy Weaver of McAlester, Dora and Don Layman of Eufaula and Lenora and Ronnie Cox of Checotah; four nephews; three nieces, and numerous cousins.

Harrison Judson 'Jud' Webster

Harrison Judson "Jud" Webster, 83, passed away May 15, 2005, at his home in Wilburton, Oklahoma. He was born July 19, 1921, in Buffalo Valley, Oklahoma, to Margaret Jane "Potts" Webster and Renzy H. Webster.

Jud was very proud of his Choctaw heritage and of his country. He proudly and willingly served in the Navy as part of the fire and rescue team during World War II at North Island, California.



He had many interests and was ready to help those in need. He had a beautiful voice and played guitar. Before moving to Wilburton he had a country and western band and enjoyed playing for senior citizen dances and the residents in nursing homes. Jud and his wife, Connie, moved to the USMV Colony in October 1993, nine miles south of Wilburton. Their home, the "Sugar Shack," was their favorite place to be. It was, and still is, a little piece of heaven on earth.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Everett Webster.

Survivors include his wife of the home; sister, Marcella Webster; brother, Dalton Webster; two granddaughters; three grandsons; and two great-grandchildren.

He was, and still is, loved by many and will be greatly missed.

Victor Baggett

Victor M. Baggett, 74, of Platte City, Missouri, passed away June 17, 2005, at his home. He was born November 16, 1930, in Tuttle, Oklahoma, to Minnie Snow Wilmoth Baggett and William James Baggett. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean Conflict and Vietnam. He retired from Marriott In-Flight Services, after which he traveled to see his family and to play golf.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Norma May Cole Baggett; and brother, Wallace Baggett.

Survivors include his sons, Darrell Baggett and wife, Barb, of Excelsior Springs, Missouri, Greg Baggett and wife, Shelley, of Georgetown, Texas, and Kevin Baggett of Platte City; brothers, W.J. Baggett of Antlers, Oklahoma, and Stokes Baggett of Oklahoma City; sister, Dotty Liddy of Austin, Texas; and grandchildren, Megan, Shawn, Aubrey, Matthew, Elijah and Sarah.

Vivian F. Groves

Vivian F. Groves, 57, passed away July 2, 2005, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was born July 1, 1948, to Jewell LeFlore in Oklahoma City. Vivian grew up in the Keota area until the first grade, then moved to Muskogee where she finished high school in 1966. She later went on to earn a B.A. from Northeastern State University.

Vivian married George Groves and had two children. They loved to travel together. Vivian enjoyed cooking, but more so, she enjoyed feeding those she worked with at the Veterans Affairs office in Muskogee, Oklahoma. She spent more than six years with the VA office. Her grandchildren became the pride of her life.

Vivian is survived by her husband of Muskogee; son, Bryan and Cheryl Groves of Landers, Wyoming; daughter, Jani and Shawn Reheard of Muskogee; sister, Wylene and Tommy Hudson of Skiatook; niece, Cara Hudson; nephew, T.J. and Keli Hudson and their son, Cameron Hudson; grandchildren, Roman Groves, Kayla Groves, Seth Reheard, Hunter Reheard, and Skyler Reheard, and many coworkers and friends.

Marie Watson

Marie Watson, 88, of Paris, Texas, passed away July 17, 2005, at Paris Regional Medical Center. She was born September 11, 1916, in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, a daughter of G.W. and Rosa Oakes.

She was a homemaker and member of United Pentecostal Church of Paris. She married the Rev. James David Watson in 1930.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, two sisters and her parents.

Survivors include her husband of Paris; children, Rose Mary Nabors and husband, Don, and Glenn Watson and wife, Linda, all of Paris, and Elsie Hughes and husband, Greg, of Ore City, Texas; five grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Chad Ray Musgraves

Chad Ray Musgraves, 25, passed away July 3, 2005. He was born December 13, 1979, in Borger, Texas, and was a lifetime resident of Borger.

He was a member of Bunavista Baptist Church. He graduated from Borger High School in 1999. He worked for the Tyson Pipeline Company. He married Dana Ray on March 12, 2004, in Borger.

Survivors include his wife of the home;

son, Kaden of the home; daughter, Starr of Borger; his father, Carl Musgraves and stepmother, Charlotte, of Borger; his mother, Becky Mason and stepfather, John, of Talihina, Oklahoma; grandparents, Ernie and Barbara Musgraves of Amarillo, Texas, and Henry and Alice Ott of Borger; a brother, Kevin Musgraves of Dumas, Texas; four stepsisters, Trish Wynn of Pittsburg, Texas, Nicki Richardson of Stinnett, Texas, Amy Hopkins of Borger and Sara Hopkins of Amarillo. Jess Ralph and Mary Uldean Cearley Grubbs.

Mary graduated from McAlester High School in 1959. She then moved to Duncan, Oklahoma, where she attended and graduated from LaJean's Beauty School.

She met and married her husband, Ronald D. Bell, in Duncan in 1964. Ron was in the U.S. Army and they traveled throughout the United States and Japan making many friends during their tours of duty. Upon retirement, they traveled the United States and later purchased and operated Shady Oaks RV Resort in Ganado, Texas.

Survivors include her husband of Temple; one son, Timothy Glenn Bell of Allen, Texas; two daughters, Hope Renee Bell of Austin, Texas, and Gloria Kay Bell of Pennsylvania, and eleven grandchildren; four sisters, Mary S. Smith of Duncan, Oklahoma, Jessye Mae Martin of Garland, Texas, Norma Louise Peacock of Dallas, Texas, and Judy Kay Lowry of McKinney, Texas; and one brother, Johnny Ross Grubbs of Garland.

Marty was very proud of her Choctaw heritage and worked to see that her children and grandchildren each had their Choctaw cards.

George K. 'Kechi' Wilemon

George K. "Kechi" Wilemon, 87, passed away peacefully at home on June 23, 2005. He was born September 1, 1917, in Anadarko, Oklahoma, and resided in Kern County for 46 years.

He was a U.S. veteran, serving his country during World War II. George was very proud of his Choctaw Indian heritage, faithfully attending the Choctaw gatherings held each year in Choctaw Valley.



Kechi loved the Lord Jesus Christ and served him for 45 years at Liberty Christian Center Assembly of God.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 52 years, Pauline Wilemon.

Survivors include his loving wife, Mabel Wilemon; sons, Wesley Wilemon and Alan Wilemon; daughters, Leoma Dempsey, Ramona Price, Suzette Garza, and Letha Suiter; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was loved by all who knew him and will be greatly missed for his wonderful personality and sharp wit.



Harold Dean Baggs, 43, of Antlers, Oklahoma, passed away May 11, 2005, in Kiowa, Oklahoma. He was born February 3, 1962, in Antlers to Burl Baggs and Marie Ruth Greenwood Baggs.

Dean was a lifelong resident of Antlers and was of the Methodist faith. He was a laborer on the farm and ranch. Dean loved to cook and take care of his nieces and nephews. He also enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father and his grandmother, Ida Graham Greenwood.

Survivors include his mother of Antlers; brother, Tim Greenwood of Whitesboro, Texas; sisters, Wanda Cathey, Susan Baggs and Charlotte Walls, all of Antlers, Cheryl Fry and Penny Middleton, both of Hugo, Oklahoma, and Eunice Chamberlain of McAlester, Oklahoma; six nieces, seven nephews, four great-nieces, five greatnephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.



OBITUARIES

Billy V. McGee

Billy V. McGee, 88, of Redding, California, passed away July 4, 2005, at his residence. He was born March 30, 1917, in Nashoba, Oklahoma. He moved to Shasta County in March from Santa Maria, California.

Mr. McGee was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, a construction welder and a member of the Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; son, Bill of Fullerton, California; daughters, Ann Zeller of Redding and Claudette Zeller of Newbury Park, California; eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Calvin Lee Jones

Calvin Lee Jones passed away July 17, 2005, in Prescott, Arizona. He was born February 17, 1943, in McAlester, Oklahoma, to Lillian Sarcoxie Jones and Calvin C. Jones.

In his early years he lived with his Aunt Carol Johns in Boswell, Oklahoma. He enlisted in the U.S. Marines on February 29, 1960, and was honorably discharged on August 6, 1964. Because of the Vietnam buildup, he voluntarily extended his current enlistment for a period of nine months. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal as well as the National Defense Medal.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Dean Gibson Jones, in 1993.

Survivors include one son, Steven of Florida; three brothers, David of Prescott, Mike of Phoenix, Arizona, and Woody of Buckeye, Arizona.

Barbara Ellen Quinton

Barbara Ellen Quinton passed away August 2, 2005. She was born February 8, 1930, in Bakersfield, California.

Barbara spent most of her life in Oklahoma. She attended Aztec School in Oil Center, Bakersfield, and in Oklahoma she attended Kinta High School. She enjoyed crafts, country music, cooking and visiting with friends and family. She was very

much loved by all who knew her. She was a child of God and was not afraid to die.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Violet and S.E. Quinton of Quinton, Oklahoma; siblings, Marie Carr, Joel and Calvin Quinton, Pauline Clement, and Kay Kelley.

Survivors include a brother, Willie E. Sanders and wife, Helen, of Tehachapi; nephews, Ron Quinton of New Jersey, James Kelley of Florida, and Carl Carr of Bakersfield; nieces, Norma Quinton, Carla Hobbs and Linda Ingalls, all of Bakersfield.

John Henry Needham

John Henry Needham, 75, of Quinton passed away June 7, 2005, at his home. He was born on January 22, 1930, in Brooken, Oklahoma, the son of John Ransom and Mae Bell Bush Needham.

He graduated from Ouinton High School. On January 15, 1949. John married Minnie Bell McBride in Las Vegas. He worked as a



Charliss A. "Tootie" Anderson, 58, of Hartshorne, Oklahoma, passed away June 24, 2005, at St. John's Medical Center in Tulsa. She was born September 4, 1946, in Haileyville, Oklahoma, the daughter of Thomas and Violet Jewell Hulsey Smith. She lived in the Haileyville-Hartshorne area all of her life. She graduated from Haileyville High School in the class of 1964.

She married Butch Davidson on December 25, 1963.

For many years she was self-employed at Butch's Station and Grocery in Haileyville until the store closed in 1981. She later worked as a payroll clerk at the U.S. Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester until her retirement in 2003. She was a member of Edgewood United Methodist Church of Hartshorne.

She later married Tommy Anderson in 1997 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Tommy Smith.

Survivors include her husband of the home; son, Steven Davidson and wife, Tara, of Hartshorne; two grandchildren, Seth and Kensey Davidson of Hartshorne; two stepdaughters and spouses, Sherry and Richard Bedford and Penni and Kipp Opperman, all of McAlester; a sister, Wanda Chaney and husband, J.R., of Hartshorne; two nephews, Chris Watkins and wife, Robin, of McAlester and Michael Haskins and wife, Gwen, of Bache; an aunt, Jettie Hopper of Porterville, California; brother-in-law, Bob Anderson and wife, Helen, of Haileyville; sister-in-law, Donna Settle and husband, Charlie, of Dover, Tennessee, and numerous special friends, Tawannah Burris of Hartshorne, Pat Baldwin of Sulphur, Leslie and JoAnn Smith of McAlester and Mitchell Lindsay of Haileyville.

Michael E. 'Bear' Oakes

Michael Edwin "Bear" Oakes, 27, passed away July 21, 2005, in Carlsbad, New Mexico. He was born July 5, 1978, in Pecos, Texas, and attended Scurry-Rosser High School where he played football and graduated May 22, 1997. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy.

Michael was a driller for Patterson Drilling Company, Hobbs Division, Rig 45. He loved being a driller, loved his work in the oil field, and enjoyed racing and fishing. Michael was proud of his Choctaw heritage and loved going to pow-wows. He will be truly missed, but his smile will shine forever.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Gilbert Edwin Oakes Sr.

Survivors include his father and stepmother, Gilbert E. Oakes Jr. and Linda Morris Oakes of Rosser; his grandmother, Velma J. Oakes of Bokchito, Oklahoma; uncles and aunts, Robert and Evelyn Poole and their son, Russell, and Neville and Lois Cummins, all of Bokchito, Jessie Kitchens of Hugo, Oklahoma, and Dean and Francis Tedford of Ft. Stockton, Texas; his mother and stepfather, Annie and James Lowrey of Carlsbad, and several other aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Rodney D. Hubbard

Rodney D. Hubbard passed away July 26, 2005. He was born January 28, 1973, in Millington, Tennessee. He was the great-grandson of original enrollee Frank Anukwiatubbee.

Rod loved offroad motorcycle racing and had won numerous trophies. His hobbies included woodworking and laborer working.



Janie Williams Flowers of Ada, Oklahoma; mother, Roxie Ann Flowers of Durant, Oklahoma; wife, Lori Hubbard of Phoenix, Arizona; stepfather, Kelly Cantrell of Durant; sister, Kelly Ann Hubbard of Montrose, Colorado, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Gertrude Kathryn Beene

Gertrude Kathryn Beene passed away in her home on February 1, 2005, where she had been lovingly cared for by her children in the last few months. Born Gertrude Kathryn West in Whitefield, Oklahoma, in 1910, Mrs. Beene was the daughter of original enrollee Jennie Taylor West, and niece of World War I Choctaw code talker Robert Taylor. She and her late husband, Dewey Beene,

were long-time residents of Stigler, Okla-



homa, and stayed in touch with family and many friends in Haskell County in the years since moving with their family to California in 1942 during difficult economic times. Until her 90th year, when her health kept her a little closer to home, she regularly attended and took great pleasure in the Oklahoma reunions and tribal events held annually in Southern California.

Survivors include four children, daughters Retha Delois Scott of Cherry Valley, California, and Dewey June Williams of Bakersfield, and sons Frank Beene of Bakersfield and Delmar Leon Beene of Phoenix, Arizona; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren, many of whom lived close enough to give her great joy in her later years.

A faithful reader of the BISHINIK, Mrs. Beene was famous in her family for keeping everyone up-to-date on Stigler friends and civic events. At her 90th birthday party in 2000, she was especially surprised and delighted to receive an authentic Trail of Tears T-shirt from Chief Gregory E. Pyle. The family wishes to acknowledge Oklahoma friends who stayed in contact and whose letters and cards eased her last year.

Myra Oneta Folsom Collins

Myra Oneta Folsom Collins, 81, of Nashville, Tennessee, passed away July 14, 2005. She was born May 6, 1924, in Caddo, Oklahoma, to Hoyle Pushmataha and Eunice Arnold Folsom.

She always had a smile for you and never met a stranger. She was very proud of her Choctaw heritage. She attended Goodland School and had many fond memories.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Newton Collins.

Survivors include her daughter, Linda Montgomery; son, Jimmie F. (Marcia) Chandler Sr.; grandchildren, Lynn (Leon) Greif, Monty Montgomery, Jimmy (Michelle) Chandler Jr. and Brian (Becky) Chandler Sr.; great-grandchildren, Ashley Chandler, Austin Chandler, Brian Chandler Jr., and Anthony Chandler.









self-employed rancher.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Jerry and Tommy Joe, and sisters, Janette and Maurine.

Survivors include his wife of the home; children, Gary and Judy Needham, Johnny Needham, Jeannie and Ray Turpin and Patty and Chris Hoag, all of Quinton, Ronnie Needham of Bascom, and Vickie and Jerry Terrell of Tamaha; brothers, Leroy Needham of Pleasant Hills, Oregon, Charles Needham of Salina, and Doyle Needham of Perry; sisters, Annis Culver of Inola, Bernice Stoners of Enterprise, Vera Bearden of Salina and Dorothy Dodson of Cottage Grove, Oregon; 16 grandchildren, Duane, Barry, Shane, Henry, Rodney, Anthony, Billy, Veronica, Melanie, Brooke, Jamie, Stefanie, Samantha, Jerrod, Adam, and Anna; 16 great-grandchildren, Logan, Shelby, Garrett, Taylor, A.J., Sara, Hunter, Maegan, Quinton, Rosie, Austin, Tiffany, Christian, Savannah, Clayton and Brier.

Vivian Ann Turkiewicz

Vivian Ann Nelson Turkiewicz, 79, of Houston, Texas, passed away June 8, 2005. She was born June 27, 1925, in McAlester, Oklahoma, to Wilmer Zola McClain (McLain) Nelson and Isaac Jacob Nelson.

She was preceded in death by her son, Mark Scott Turkiewicz.

Survivors include her daughters, Susan Williamson and husband, Dale, Paula Turkiewicz Cherry and Sheila Turkiewicz;

three grandsons, Brian, Keith, and Carl Carnley; one great-grandson, Scott Carnley, and daughter-in-law, Mary Bellamy Turkiewicz.

Frank Williams Jr.

Frank Williams Jr., 89, passed away June 13, 2005, at his home in Peoria, Arizona. He was born January 21, 1916, in Centrahoma to Frank Williams and Ella Tindal. He had two brothers and four sisters.

Frank married Udell Scott of Coalgate on February 1, 1938. He was 21 and she was 16. They were married 57 years until her death in 1996. Frank and Udell had eight children - four boys and four girls,



22 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Frank took his young family from Oklahoma to California where he was a welder in the shipyards. From there they moved to Arizona where he lived the remaining years of his long life. Frank was also a master mechanic. He could build and repair anything! He serviced his own truck, irrigated and mowed an acre of grass until he became ill this year. Our dad was a kind and loving family man. He taught his children the importance of work. He loved to tell stories of his life and experiences. He also loved telling "tall tales" to his large family. Most of all he loved the reaction he got when people realized that he had been "pulling their leg." Frank was very proud of his Choctaw heritage. He was proud to have served his country in World War II. He was an Army PFC in Custer Company, serving overseas in Italy.

Our dad left us many great gifts, the best was that we could call him friend. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Sally Geneva Gibson

Sally Geneva Gibson, 93, of Locust Grove, passed away June 18, 2005, in Tarpon Springs, Florida. She was born September 1, 1911, in Blanco to George and Sally Holloway Beams. She was one of nine children.

Mrs. Gibson graduated from high school in McAlester. There, she was an outstanding athlete who participated in the high jump and running events while a member of the track team. She also played on the basketball team.

She married Earl S. Gibson on April 8, 1934. He was the original founder of the Bank of Locust Grove. He preceded his wife in death in 1981.

Sally, along with two of her sisters, owned and operated the Salon of Three Sisters in Muskogee during World War II. She also held the regional manager position for Studio Girl Cosmetics. She was a devoted homemaker and a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Locust Grove. She enjoyed and loved her church dearly. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, being a charter member of Chapter #382 in Locust Grove. She was also a member of the Pryor Garden Club, where she served as president for some time. She enjoyed volunteering for the Meals-on-Wheels program, where she would travel great distances to deliver numerous meals. She always looked after and cared for friends who were homebound or in the rest home.

She was an active person who enjoyed bowling, ceramics and cooking. She also liked to spend time gardening. The nickname 'Gog" was given to her by her family. The significance was that it was short for "giver of goodness." Currently, she was a resident of Tarpon Springs where she had lived since January 2003.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; three brothers and four sisters.

Survivors include two sons, Samuel Gibson of Pryor and Thomas Gibson of Tulsa; two daughters, Virginia McFarland and John of Palm Harbor, Florida, and Nancy Steddum and Riddle of Houston, Texas; one sister, Mary Aufderheide of San Angelo, Texas; four grandchildren; numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

Thomas Colbert

Thomas Colbert, 71, of Wilburton passed away July 3, 2005, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was born on October 27, 1933, in Cravens to Simon and Rosie Colbert.

He was of the Baptist faith and enjoyed woodworking and gardening.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Simon Colbert; and a sister, Ruby Sharpe.

Survivors include his wife, Minnie

Colbert of the home; three sons, Eulane, Tom and Jerry Colbert; two daughters, Rosie Colbert and Josephine Ludlow of Hartshorne; stepchildren, Jimmy Horne, Vickie Williams and husband, Jimmy, Kathy Kline and husband, Brian, and Reba Hunnicutt and husband, Rex, all of Wilburton, Donnie Harvey and wife, Myrna, of Okemah, David Harvey and wife, Sandra, of Muskogee, and Teresa Kuykendall of Hartshorne; numerous grandchildren, step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

Aileen W. McKenzie

Aileen W. McKenzie, 92, of Hugo passed away June 16, 2005, in Hugo. She was born February 2, 1913, in Goodland to Leta E. Thorp and Joseph Alfred Crews. Mrs. McKenzie was a member of First Baptist Church of Hugo and a member of the VFW and American Legion. She had lived in Hugo for the last 20 years after retiring and moving back from Dallas where she had lived and worked for many years. Aileen will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.



She was preceded in death by two hus-

bands, Frank Tucker and Leonard McKenzie; her parents, and two brothers, A.V. Crews and Cecil Thompson.

Survivors include two brothers, Elmer D. Crews of Hugo and Oliver J. Crews of Dallas, and many nieces and nephews.

Allie May Jones

Allie May Jones, 99, passed away July 5, 2005. An original enrollee of the Choctaw tribe, she was born March 2, 1906, in Wadesville Community near Whitesboro, Oklahoma, to Josiah Henry and Winnie Elizabeth Billy. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend.



lived in Wichita Falls, Texas, until retirement in 1975. They made their retirement home on the farm near Marlow where they attended St. York Indian Church.

Her husband, parents, two sisters, three brothers, and one greatgrandson preceded her in death.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Marshall Purser of Plano, Texas; grandson and "granddaughter," John and Brandi Purser of McKinney, Texas; great-granddaughter, Derian Pursey of McKinney; and many nieces and nephews. All who knew her loved Allie and we will miss her greatly.

Elizabeth McCulley

Elizabeth McCulley of Cumby, Texas, passed away July 29, 2005, in Cumby. She was born December 28, 1928, in Byers, Oklahoma, the daughter of Raymond and Sina Dixon Henry.

She was a nurses aide and a member of Assembly of God.

Survivors include her husband, Ernest McCulley of the home; children, Pat Emmons of Cumby, Minnie Glenn of Park Hall, Maryland, Betty Hill of Leonard, Texas, and Brenda McGuire of Garland, Texas; sister, Sue Hicks of Oklahoma; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a great-grandchild, Brittany.







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Choctaw Nation District Princesses





Vanessa Jefferson

District 2 Little Miss

Mackenzie Maxwell

District 7 Little Miss

Meghan Byassee District 1 Little Miss





Sherri Garza District 2 Jr. Miss



Hagen Lefors District 12 Jr. Miss



Trista Dawn Shomo District 2 Sr. Miss

The Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, September 3, at the amphitheatre on the grounds at Tushka Homma during the annual Labor Day Festival. Princesses representing the 12 districts of the Choctaw Nation will be judged on their interviews, talent, and traditional dress. The girls chosen as Little Miss, Jr. Miss and Miss Choctaw Nation will reign for the following year, representing the tribe at various functions held not only in the Choctaw Nation but around the country. Not pictured is Sheraya Caldwell, District 7 Jr. Miss.





Emillie Cox District 4 Little Miss











Emiley Grace

District 8 Little Miss

Rachel Hogen

District 5 Jr. Miss

Heather Baker

District 4 Sr. Princess

Malinda Steve

District 9 Little Miss





Raven Ott **District 12 Little Miss**

Jenny Townsend District 1 Jr. Miss



Carol Cole District 10 Jr. Miss Lakota Byington

District 11 Jr. Miss





Halito!

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as the Miss Choctaw Nation for the year 2004-05. What a wonderful year it has been.

First of all, I want to thank my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for all the blessings He has bestowed upon my life. Without Him I am nothing. To my parents and family, "Thank You" for the love, support, prayers, and for believing in me. You don't know how much that means to me.

Thank you to Chief, Assistant Chief and Tribal Council for allowing young ladies to be an active part of The Great Choctaw Nation. We are honored and privileged to carry on the culture and traditions of our people. I also want to say thank you for making The Choctaw Nation a great success and for letting God direct you. May He richly bless you all.

To the Junior and Little Miss Choctaw, it has been a fun journey with you. Especially the laughs and talks we've had. I will always treasure those memories forever. Always remember to follow your dreams.



Halito!

Greetings to all who will attend the Choctaw Nation Labor Day festivities. It has been my distinguished honor to represent the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

I am Nikki Amos, the 2004-05 Little Miss Choctaw Nation. I want to say thank you to Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey, Tribal Council Members, Pageant Coordinator Leigh Rapier and Miss Choctaw Nation Stephanie Horn for making this a great year for me. Thank you, Mrs. Rapier





Candace Baker District 6 Sr. Miss

Princesses say 'Farewell'

Matilda Taylor District 7 Sr. Miss

Courtney Elyse Baker District 8 Sr. Miss

Erica McMillan District 9 Sr. Miss







Adriana Chavez







Charity Williams

District 9 Jr. Miss

respect your parents and elders and show your Native American pride.

Thank you to Vonna, Nicole, Willard, Leigh and Mel for your guidance, time and help. You were there when I needed you. To Paula, Linda and Finance, thank you for your support during my year as Miss Choctaw Nation.

To those who allowed me to be a part of your festivities, culture, and gave me generosity and hospitality, I want to say Thank You and God bless. Thank you so much to the Choctaw people for allowing me to be a part of history, culture and for the honor of being your representative of The Great Choctaw Nation. This has been a great opportunity and dream fulfilled. Once again, Thank You.

To the princess contestants, always be yourself and follow your heart. Never doubt yourself because you are a winner, especially in God's eyes. Keep God #1 and you will succeed at anything. May God be with you and protect you always. Show your Native American pride and be proud of who you are because that's what God intended. May everyone have a safe and wonderful time at the Labor Day Festival. Chihowa yut chi aiokpachi. Chi pisa la chike. God bless and farewell. - Stephanie R. Horn and Miss Horn, for all the invitations and to the Bishinik staff for the calendars of events each month that was listed to keep me busy.

To my family and friends who were there with all their support, time, encouragement and prayers. To the Lord above for his protection and guidance for me to do the best that I could.

To the next Little Miss Princess, I wish you all the best as you reign and represent the Choctaw Nation for the year 2005-06. I hope you have as memorable and exciting year as I have this year. To all the girls in the Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant, I wish you all the best and good luck. Yakoke.

