



BISHINIK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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April 2002 Issue

McAlester CMDC plant on 10-year ASH contract

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma manufacturing facility in McAlester is working to produce Army Space Heaters (ASH) – a project that includes the design, engineering, development and testing, manufacturing and support for ASH units over the next 10 years.

The Choctaw Nation was awarded this Department of Defense contract because of the outstanding past performance of Choctaw Management Development Corporation (CMDC) and the support that the Choctaw Nation has shown in funding the expansion of facilities, equip-

ment and personnel.

Industrial facilities owned by the tribe in McAlester have 150,000 feet of manufacturing space.

“Our capabilities have broadened, thanks to the added space,” said Chief Gregory Pyle. CMDC is just one of the many businesses owned and administered by the Choctaw Nation.

“It is thrilling to have watched this business grow and become so fruitful over the past few years, and the Council and I are thankful for the opportunities offered us,” said Chief Pyle.

“We are excited about the op-

portunities for employment the tribe is able to offer because of the ASH contract,” said Assistant Chief Mike Bailey.

“It is wonderful to be able to provide a quality product for our armed services, and at the same time, generate jobs and create revenues for programs that help Choctaw people,” Assistant Chief Bailey said.

Other Department of Defense contracts currently being fulfilled by CMDC include the Stinger Missile Containers for Army Redstone Arsenal and various aluminum shipping and storage containers.



Walter Amos examines an Army Space Heater in the McAlester facility.

Tribal leaders testify before Congress on Arkansas Riverbed issue

Leaders of the Choctaw, Cherokee and Chickasaw Nations testified before Congress in Washington, D.C., April 17th. They spoke to the House Resources Committee, presenting a proposal of settlement of disputes regarding the Arkansas Riverbed.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Chief Chad Smith and Governor Bill Anoatubby joined forces to ask for a statutory settlement rather than begin litigation to displace thousands of occupants along the river.

Prior to the 1800s, the Choctaw, Chickasaw and Cherokee Nations lived in the Southeastern region of the United States. The lands occupied by the tribal people made tempting targets for the European neighbors moving in during the late 1700s and early 1800s. Aggressive efforts were made to force the tribal people to move off their lands, and in 1831, the Choctaws were the first of the three tribes to travel the “Trail of Tears” to what is now Oklahoma.

As part of the resettlement process, the tribes signed treaties

giving up lands in their homeland and taking ownership of lands and waters in the new territories. The terms of the treaties were dictated by the United States, and included transfer, in fee simple, of all title and rights to the riverbed of the Arkansas River.

Over the course of the years, the riverbed has shifted, creating over 7,500 acres of dry land. Farmers moved on to the property and are farming or using it, without legal authority. Also, sand, gravel, coal and gas resources associated with the river

were extracted and sold by non-Indians, without any consideration or compensation to the tribes.

This creates a problem, with tribal ownership being asserted. In the 1940s the Kerr-McClellan Dam and power generation system was developed and built on the Arkansas River, without any regard to tribal rights. Millions of tons of sand and gravel and stretches of useable land associated with the river were taken by the Federal Government.

To this day, there hasn't been

any compensation to the tribes for this taking. This is possibly the only instance where tribal trust property, supposedly under Federal protection, was taken by the Federal Government without any consideration or compensation.

In 1970, the Supreme Court held that the three tribes owned all rights to the Arkansas River and its resources. In 1989, action was filed in Federal Court for damages for mismanagement of tribal trust properties. Delays later, the tribes are still in court.

“We do not want the disrupt-

tion of personal lives and fortune which will be caused if the United States has to file between 600 - 800 cases to clear the tribal title and displace current possessors of the 7,500 acres of land on the river that the tribes are reclaiming,” said Chief Pyle. “Once the first acts are filed, title to property along the river could be clouded for decades, causing chaos.”

The tribal leaders proposed to the congressional committee that compensation be paid from the (See **RIVERBED** on Page 9)



Chickasaw Governor Bill Anoatubby, Choctaw Chief Gregory Pyle, Cherokee Chief Chad Smith, Muscogee/Creek Chief Perry Beaver and Seminole Chief Jerry Haney attend the quarterly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council on April 12.

Inter-Tribal Council holds quarterly meeting

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes held its quarterly meeting April 12 in Catoosa, Oklahoma, hosted by the Cherokee Nation. Five resolutions were presented for consideration and approved by members of the council:

- Supporting federal legislation calling for recognition of the Hawaiian Nation and their rights

as a native community to reorganize as a Native Hawaii governing entity, exercising rights as native people to self-determination and self-government.

- Endorsing Haskell Indian Nations University Wetland's Preservation Organization's opposition to the South Lawrence Trafficway. The construction would intrude on sacred land

which contains ancestral burial grounds and ceremonial sites, destroying the cultural and spiritual importance of the land.

- Supporting separate funding for the tribes' Caregiver Program, asking that funding for Title VI-A, Nutrition Services and Title VI-C Caregiver Programs of the Older Americans (See **INTER-TRIBAL** on Page 9)

Chief Pyle is keynote speaker at workshop

Chief Gregory E. Pyle was recently a featured speaker at a Municipal/Tribal Relations Workshop, where Idabel Mayor James Mills and Durant Mayor Jerry Tomlinson each spoke of the assistance the tribe has given to their cities and communities.

Chief Pyle stressed that the success of projects involving the tribe and cities is based on tremendous cooperation between the entities. Mayor Mills spoke of the tremendous help the Choctaw Nation provided during the emergency of last year's ice storm and the improvements to Idabel through the tribe. There is a shopping center and Senior Nutrition Center at Idabel, and a new living community for seniors. Mills also stated that the Choctaw Nation and Idabel Law Enforcement agencies were cross-deputized.

Mayor Tomlinson echoed Mills' comments, speaking of the employment opportunities available in Durant because of the Choctaw Nation. The tribe also has a Senior Citizens Center in Durant and is in the process of constructing an Independent Living Community for elders.



Mayor Tomlinson, Chief Pyle and Mayor Mills.

Council approves funding for Summer Youth program

The Choctaw Tribal Council agreed in Regular Session to approve \$900,000 for the supplemental Summer Youth Work program. The Summer Youth Work program employs Native American people age 14 to 21.

Councilmembers also approved funding for improvements to the Choctaw Museum at Tushka Homma. Improvements include construction of handicap restrooms, a fire suppression system, elevator installation, security system and climate controlled display cases.

The Council voted to allow a grant application to the Center for Mental Health Services. This grant could provide services (See **COUNCIL** on Page 9)



Rattam JOM representatives Kay Deaton, Superintendent Loyd Deaton, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Tommy Wesley, Debra Wesley, Betty Work and Mariea Moore.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Coalgate JOM representatives Faye Cagle, Tina Clem, Karen Burris and Superintendent Joe McCulley.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Broken Bow JOM representatives Tina Shomo, Sandra Frazier, Sue Hicks and Curtis Billy.

JOM programs are recognized for outstanding service to youth

Outstanding JOM programs at Rattam, Coalgate and Broken Bow schools were recognized during the annual Oklahoma Johnson O'Malley Conference Banquet held Wednesday, March 27 in Oklahoma City.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has utilized the JOM program in its 10 1/2 county service area for 18 years. It is implemented in 60 schools within the Choctaw Nation, with a total of 8,222 students.

“These teachers and parents have done an outstanding job working with the Johnson O'Malley program,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

“Their participation, planning and coordinating have resulted in satisfying the unique needs of each of the Indian children in their districts.”

Rattam, in Pushmataha County, has a JOM enrollment of 28% of the total enrollment number. The Coalgate Schools Program in Coal County totals 26.42% of the student enrollment. In McCurtain County, the Broken Bow JOM enrollment consists of 22.8% of the school's total student enrollment.

Awards were presented to parent-teacher representatives from each

school district.

Each group was chosen for the exemplary way it has provided for the educational needs of the Indian students in its school district. The parent committees participate in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of all programs funded by JOM.

JOM funds help provide the students with such things as school supplies, testing fees, extracurricular activities and cultural enrichment. The JOM program also helps make available assistance in counseling, tutoring, and home schooling.

Choctaw student encourages others to enter health field

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the financial aid received from the Choctaw Nation while attending the College of Pharmacy at Midwestern University-Arizona.

Currently, I am a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association (APhA), ViCap Volunteer Program, University of Arizona College of Medicine Minority Medical Education Program, University of Arizona Talking Medicine Circle. In my spare time, I volunteer as a pharmacist intern at a nearby Indian Health Service Unit.

This is truly a dream come true for me after all of these years. I would like to encourage all of our Choctaw youth to become interested in the health field. We need more Native American doctors, pharmacists and health care professionals to help our Indian people all across this nation.

Nia Pasqual-Kohahnee

Interested in Nail family members

Dear Editor,

Our Nail family members are Mary Lewis Nail (b. 1891) and her father, Joe Nail (b. 1866), and his father, Morris Nail. All were born in Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory.

I am interested in learning about other Nail family members and their relationships to each other. Several questions that I have are as follows:

Were Dock P. Nail and Mary Lewis Nail cousins? Who were the relatives of the following persons:

1. Sophins Nail-Garland, 1843-1932.
 2. Lucinda Nail (b. approx. 1828) - wife of Daniel Folsom; parents of Mary Abigail Folsom.
 3. Emma Nail - Jones (1879-1916), wife of Mike Jones.
 4. Lucinda Nail (died 1873), wife of William Scott Lewis, parents of Howard Eugene Lewis (b. 1871).
 5. Etta Regina Davis, a descendant of the Nail family of Mississippi.
 6. Mary Ann Nail, wife of Jeremiah Folsom, parents of Emeline Folsom.
 7. Molly Nail of Mississippi.
 8. Joel Nail of Mississippi. He had been a Choctaw District Chief in Mississippi during the 1820s. He was an attorney and educated at Kentucky. I believe his brother was an attorney, also.
 9. Sophia Holefield, wife of Morris Nail, parents of Joe Nail. Joe was born 1866.
- If you have any information, please write to D.R. Ferguson, 22296 N. 4025 Dr., Bartlesville, OK 74006.

Joshua graduates cum laude

Dear Editor,

The Steve McHenry family of Cortez, Colorado is proud to announce the graduation of their son, Joshua Stephen, from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado.

Josh received his B.A. in Business Administration/Marketing on December 16, 2001. He graduated cum laude.

We would like to thank Fort Lewis for waiving his tuition due to his Native American status and we would also like to thank the Choctaw Nation.

The McHenrys are proud of their Choctaw heritage. Family members include dad Steve, mom Laura and brother Aaron.

Laura McHenry
Cortez, Colorado

Martin, Krebs and Griffin descendants

Dear Editor,

I would like to find the descendants of Lewis Algeron Martin, born December 7, 1851 in the Cherokee Nation, the son of Hercules "Tuxie" Terrapin Martin (b. 1822) and Permelia Sara Griffin (b. 1822). Lewis married Sillen Krebs, daughter of Judge Edmond Folsom Krebs and Amelia Walker. Lewis and Sillen Martin's children were Gertrude Martin (b. 1883); Tandy W. Martin (b. 1884); Edmond Martin (b. 1886) and Oscar W. Martin (b. 1889). I am also searching for the descendants of Judge Edmond Folsom Krebs (b. 1821) and Theresa Caroline Griffin who was his second wife. Their children were John Richard (b. 1888) and Laura Krebs (b. date unknown). Theresa Caroline Griffin was a sister to Permelia Griffin Martin.

Every year since 1959 the Martin family has held a family reunion the last Sunday in May at Greenleaf State Park at Braggs. We would very much like to find these cousins. You may write, call or e-mail Frankie Sue Gilliam at RR 2 Box 37-1, Gore, OK 74435; 918-489-2217, or fgilliam@twinterritories.com.

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

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

The BISHINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation. Circulation is monthly.

Bennington students have successful showing at livestock show

Bennington FFA and 4-H students had a very successful Bryan County Livestock Show and Sale which was held March 1-4.

Starting off in the barrow division of the swine show, Ashton Thompson exhibited the Breed Champion Hampshire Barrow. Not to be outdone and running a close second in the duroc division, Andrew Wingfield was chosen Reserve Duroc Barrow. Also, Jordan Daniels came in a close second with her Cross Barrow to be named Reserve Breed Cham-

The Bennington Young Farmers, FFA and 4-H wish to say thank you to the many sponsors and especially the Choctaw Nation for buying the premiums on these students. Thank you for your support.

pion Cross. Megan Jones and Macy Vansickle also made the sale with their barrows.

The gilt show was the highlight of the evening when Ashton Thompson walked away with Breed Champion Hampshire and the Grand Champion Swine of the show. Other champions in the

to be outdone, Casey Jones took the intermediate swine showmanship.

In the beef division, Bennington FFA member, Preston Noland, won the intermediate beef showmanship and Ashton Thompson won the English steer division, making the sale. Bennington students making the sale were Ashton Thompson Casey Jones, Jeromy Teal, Andrew Wingfield, Jordan Daniels, Rodney Curtis, Megan Jones, Macy Vansickle and Jason Butterfield.



It's a small, small world ...

Dear Editor,

My husband and I were in Spain with a tour group in March. We saw someone else reading the BISHINIK and got to talking about being Choctaws! I took a group picture of all four together. They are Travis Cole Crowder of Houston, Texas; Susan Crowder Burns of Montgomery, Texas, my husband's sister; Sezan McDaniel and Cato McDaniel, Sezan's father, both of Woodlands, Texas.

It is a small world after all!!!

Carol Crowder

Keota citizens receive water

Dear Chief Pyle,

I want to thank you on behalf of the town of Keota, Oklahoma when we were out of water lately. You were the only one and a few concerned people. Many would not have had water if it weren't for Tommy Brown and Charlotte Jackson. There are many here who are grateful to you for the water and also for the help during the ice storm in December 2000. Thank you.

Wilma Lewis
Keota, Oklahoma

New scoreboard becoming a reality

Dear Editor,

The Poteau Pirate Baseball Team would like to thank the Choctaw Nation and Mr. Delton Cox for the generous donation to help us secure a new scoreboard. Your help is so appreciated and will help our goal to become a reality. Thank you again.

Poteau Pirate Baseball Team
and Dugout Club Members

Seeking knowledge of the Stokelys

Dear Editor,

I am pleading with anyone who has any knowledge of the Stokelys to please contact me. I am desperately trying to prove my degree of Indian blood and I need to know my grandfather's name. My father's name was Cecil Franklin Stokely. He was in the army and in Seadrift, Texas in August of 1943 where I was born. I don't know if he is still alive. I last saw him in 1961. I would like to know everything I can about my Indian ancestors.

Betty Lou Roberts
P.O. Box 716
Coldspring, TX 77331

Received help with utilities

Dear Chief Pyle,

I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You!!!" for helping me pay my utilities this winter. As you may recall, I recently had open heart surgery. Recovery has been slow and painful. Although, I haven't as of this date received my Social Security disability benefits, I expect them soon.

I also want to commend you and your loving and caring staff who processed my request, especially Charlene Grunstad and staff.

Again, thank you Chief Pyle. With God's help I know this is going to be the best year ever!

Jerry Nubby
Marlow, Oklahoma

Hampton receives biology degree

Dear Editor,

My daughter, Carron Elizabeth Hampton, will graduate May 4, 2002 from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia. She will graduate with a B.S. in Biology.

We are very grateful for the scholarship money that was made available to her from the Choctaw Nation. It is wonderful how many people you have helped through your college scholarship program.

Cheryl K. Hampton
Savannah, Georgia

Lowry history to share

Dear Editor,

A few weeks ago as I was reading my BISHINIK, I ran across the article about Priscilla "Dinksey" Pitchlynn Lowry. The article really caught my eye as some of my ancestors were Lowrys. The more I read, the more I realized that this person was actually referring to my own ancestors as well as hers. It was brought to my attention by my Aunt Ruth Burns of Smithville, Oklahoma that this lady I was reading about was the same Aunt Dinksey that I had met and known as a child.

Although I was only 11 years old when she passed away I still remember my dad and others speaking of her. My grandmother and her family lovingly referred to her as Aunt Dinksey as she was my grandmother's father's sister-in-law. My father's name was Vernon Valgrene Ryan and he was the son of Roxie Carabel Lowry Ryan Henderson, the daughter of Squire Olar Lowry, Sr., the son of John Wesley Lowry and Narcissus Elizabeth Reeves. Therefore, Ms. Loren K. Butterbaugh's great-grandfather and my great-grandfather were brothers.

I am sending this note in to the BISHINIK in hopes of Ms. Butterbaugh seeing it and contacting me. I am sending my phone number and address to the Bishinik for you to contact me. I feel like we have quite a lot of history to share.

Cara Elizabeth Ryan Johnson
Thornton, Texas

Poteau baseball team brings home state title

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation and Mr. Delton Cox for helping our teams cover the cost of our State Championship Baseball Rings. We are so proud to be a team sponsored by the Choctaw Nation and we were proud to bring home the state title. I am thankful that the Nation takes a real interest in their youth. Thank you.

Cole Gordon
Poteau, Oklahoma

College student researching soldiers

Dear Editor,

I am researching ten Confederate soldiers who were Dartmouth College students for a college internship.

One of the men was named Simon Burney James whose residence was in the Choctaw Nation. He was born about 1830 (father was Dace) and died at Fort Arbuckle, Chickasaw Nation, about 1864. He attended Moar School in New Hampshire.

I am looking for any information or leads to complete a biographical sketch on him. Thank you.

Deborah Markarian
Keene State College
Keene, New Hampshire
603-882-9524 or 603-557-4595
e-mail: VLTN@aol.com

Student pursuing dreams

Dear Chief Pyle,

I would like to take this time to thank you for all that you've done for me in supporting my higher education. I have received money from the tribe for tuition and just now received my clothing allowance. This money has been a blessing for my family and me. I have worked very hard in high school for my GPA of 4.13 and I feel that work has paid off, thanks to you.

I am currently enrolled in 13 hours and have a GPA of 3.1 at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. I will be a junior in the fall after attending summer school. My major is undecided at the time, but I do know it will be in the business field. I am currently taking my business core classes and involved in a business related organization, Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE).

These scholarships and allowances that I have received from you are what allow me to pursue my dreams and future. Not only is this helping me financially, but also over all, I will have a college education and that will take me far. I appreciate the support from my tribe and you.

Kelli Scantlen
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

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

Health services are tremendously important to tribal people



Being Chief of the Choctaw Nation has provided me opportunities of responsibility that I am honored to have. Many of these duties involve Indian Health Service.

Serving on the National Business Development Committee and the Level of Need Funding Work Group has involved me in advising the restructure of Indian Health Service.

One of the results of our coun-

try being at war is that we must be very resourceful in plans to deliver health care services to our tribal members. The Indian Health Service budget is not currently sufficient to meet all the health needs of Indian Country.

In spite of continuing competition for money from the federal government and rising cost of health care, we are determined to continue to enhance services to tribal members. Thanks to the efforts of tribes and leadership across the Nation, funding has continued for health services and money has been put into facilities construction.

The Choctaw Nation and many tribes are also asking that the method of distribution of federal funds become more equitable. Current data shows that other regions currently receive a great deal more federal dollars to spend on each patient. The Tribal Council, Assistant Chief and I will continue to focus on the future.

Third party revenues, which

are monies collected from Medicare, Medicaid and insurance, can help replenish the budget for the health services offered by the Choctaw Nation, which means improvements for the care of you and your family.

It is very important that individuals who have private insurance or are eligible for Medicare/Medicaid tell the registration clerk so that appropriate paperwork can be completed. The money collected from these agencies can add up to a tremendous amount over the course of a year.

Indians continue to show greater incidence of certain diseases than the general population. These conditions, such as diabetes, tuberculosis, and substance abuse, are catastrophic to some families.

The Choctaw Nation wants tribal members to beat these statistics. The tribe is aggressively seeking ways to decrease the incidence and complications of diabetes by implementing exercise



Chief Pyle recently delivered the keynote speech at the 2002 Spring Department of Health & Human Services and Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

programs, nutrition education and promoting awareness of the chronic disease. Health care professionals are always on the watch for early signs of tuberculosis and other diseases, and the tribe is building a new recovery center in Talihiina, which will be

a 30-bed facility for individuals who have a substance abuse problem.

The Choctaw Nation has received notification that a clinic will be built in Stigler and plans are in the process for design and construction of that facility. This

is great news for people living in Haskell County and the surrounding area.

Health care of tribal people is one of the highest priorities of this administration, and every step of improvement is a giant step.

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey ...

WIC sites continue to open overseas



Choctaw Nation/Services Enterprise (CM/SE) continues to provide Women, Infants and Children Overseas (WICO) to people in military locations in foreign countries.

One of the most recently opened sites for WICO is in Ramstein, Germany. Military and civilian participants from the Air Force base there are now getting WIC products and education.

WIC is a supplemental nutrition program. Families who relied upon the assistance here in the states did not have it available when they were based overseas until last year. The Choctaw Nation implemented eight

pilot sites in early 2001, and to date have opened 36 sites in 11 countries.

Military bases offering WIC services in Japan are Yokosuka, Twakuni, Misawa, Camp Zama, Sasebo and Yokota. Sites in Germany are Baumholder, Schweinfurt, Vilseck, Bamberg, Bit/Spang, Wiesbaden, Dexheim, Wuerzburg, Kitzingen, Hanau/Buedingen, Friedburg and Ramstein. Okinawa sites are Kadena, Foster, Kinser, and Courtney.

Korea has three sites now providing the supplemental program. There are several places in England that provide the program, including Lakenheath,

Alconbury, London, Croughton and Menwith Hill.

WIC is offered in two sites in Italy, Aviano and Vicenza, and one site each in Cuba, Iceland, St. Mawgan, Hohenfels, Turkey, Spain, Geissen/Butzbach and Ansbach/Kattersbach.

I am very proud of the success that CM/SE has had with this contract. The technical knowledge and experience of staff with other government contracts has enabled implementation without delay.

The tremendous leadership of CM/SE staff, the Chief and Council has proven their commitment to providing excellent service.



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey joins Col. McKinley for the WICO opening at the U.S. Air Force Base in Ramstein, Germany.

Heartfelt appreciation for the many loving expressions of sympathy

I would like to take this opportunity to express the heartfelt appreciation of my family for the expressions of sympathy we received after the unexpected loss of my brother, Randy. The prayers of many individuals and churches strengthened my mother, my brother Billy, and myself. These prayers uplifted us, helping make the first days of our sorrow endurable. We are grateful for each and every call, visit, flower arrangement, food gift and card that was given in memory of Randy.

Many of his friends have donated to a special foundation that has been set up in his name to provide educational assistance. Randy spent his life helping others, and would be proud to know that his name continues to be associated with a way to give others a hand up toward a better life.

Mike Bailey



WIC Overseas Materials Manager Margaret Teal, Phillip Allen and Jim Burleson prepare the first shipment from the CM/SE Warehouse in Durant to be distributed at WIC sites overseas.



Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

During the coming weeks the Choctaw Nation will be commemorating the Culture and History of the Choctaw people. Though the history of the life of the Choctaw people is filled with sufferings, deaths, hardships, and difficulties, the Choctaw people remain a testimony – serving their country with bravery and honor, and their God with reverence and faith. The Choctaw people have a rich Christian heritage since before and during the Indian Removal Act of the 1830s when missionaries lived and traveled with them. We continue to praise God and thank Him for those whom He uses to share the Gospel among Native Americans.

In the 10th chapter of the Gospel of Mark we have the record of a blind man, a man who had been blind all of his life. On this particular day, blind Bartimaeus, as he had done in the past, came and sat down just outside of the city of Jericho and began to beg from the people who passed by. Blind Bartimaeus – sat by the highway side begging.

I wonder how many people are blind today? I don't mean blind physically, but blind spiritually? You may have 20/20 physical vision, but spiritually you are blind.

As we study God's Word, the Bible, we learn we have two sets of eyes: Physical eyes and eyes in our soul – spiritual eyes. We learn that the eyes in our soul have been blinded by Satan.

One source of our world leaders' difficulties today is their lack of understanding of spiritual matters. They don't know the cause of the world's problems and they don't know the cure. The Bible teaches that man has a spiritual disease called SIN. This is the cause of blindness. This same Book, the Bible, tells us the cure. The cure is Jesus Christ! If we reject God's Word and the cure, then there's no hope: We continue to grope in darkness.

Many people are that way in their personal lives. To them life just doesn't make sense. The pressures of life are too great and they don't know what's wrong. Why? Because they are spiritu-

ally blind. The man outside of Jesus Christ is a "natural" man, and he cannot understand spiritual things – he's blind. Who blinded him? In Second Corinthians 4:4 the Apostle Paul wrote: "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, ..." Who is the god of this world? The god of this world is the Devil.

In order for you to see spiritual things, the scales must be removed from your eyes. Only Jesus can do that. He can remove them right now and you can start living and seeing a whole new world that you never knew existed, if you will open your spiritual eyes.

Bartimaeus was not only blind – he was poor. Have you ever really seen poverty? Jesus had a concern for the poor. It was the poor (common) people who heard Jesus gladly (Mark 12:37). Jesus had a great following among the poor of this world.

There is a spiritual poverty, too. You can spend a lifetime building a fortune but when you don't know Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior you are uncertain about the future, you will have no assurance of life hereafter. You can be rich in material goods but you can also be spiritually poverty stricken – you just do not have any interest or understanding of spiritual things.

Not only was Bartimaeus poor, but he was helpless and hopeless. Nobody could help him. He had given up years before.

The Bible tells us we are also in a helpless and hopeless condition. We are dead in trespasses and sin. There is no hope in ourselves for our salvation. We learn in our Bible our spirit is lifeless; it's dead until God injects His life into the soul. That takes place when you trust Jesus Christ as your Savior – the moment you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

Bartimaeus was hopeless, helpless, blind and poor – a pitiful condition to be in! But one day a message had come to him, and he had never forgotten it. Someone had told him about Jesus Who could heal. He

thought to himself, "Jesus would never come to a town like Jericho. And if He did come to our town, He wouldn't have anything to do with me, a poor blind beggar. The rich people and the religious leaders would take up all His time."

On this day as he sat there begging he heard a crowd of people down the road. He knew something big was happening. He kept crying out what's happening? Someone shouted, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

"Jesus of Nazareth! Why, that's the one I've heard about Who can heal." Immediately Bartimaeus began to cry out. He said, "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me." You know he was crying for exactly the right thing, mercy!

Not only did Bartimaeus cry for the right thing, but he cried out at the right time and Jesus stopped and said to the people, "Call him!" They said to Bartimaeus, "... He calleth thee." And he casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. And Jesus answered and said unto him, "what wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" The blind man said unto him, "Lord, that I might receive my sight." And Jesus said unto him, "Go thy way, thy faith hath made thee whole." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way." (Mark 10:49-52)

It's a good thing Bartimaeus came when he did, because Jesus never came that way again. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem to die. If Bartimaeus hadn't met Jesus that day he might have never received his sight, he might have never received forgiveness. He just had one minute and he took advantage of that time. He cried out to Christ. Bartimaeus met Jesus and the record says he "followed Jesus in the way." You can receive Jesus today and then follow Him, you go with Him and He will go with you.

Remember the Native American people in your prayer. Pray for wisdom, strength and encouragement of the leaders of the USA and our Native America. Pray for our spiritual leaders as they preach and teach the Bible.



Trail of Tears Walk

T-Shirts

T-shirt sizes available are:
Children: (2-4), (6-8), (10-12) and (14-16)
Adults: Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large and XXX-Large

All Shirts are \$15

Price includes postage and handling.
Cashier's check or money orders only.
NO PERSONAL CHECKS.

Make plans to attend the annual commemorative Trail of Tears Walk May 18 at Wheelock

Quantity _____	Size _____	Quantity _____	Size _____
Quantity _____	Size _____	Quantity _____	Size _____

To order, send payment and completed order form to:
TRAIL OF TEARS WALK T-SHIRT
P.O. DRAWER 1210
DURANT, OK 74702

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Closed Inventory	2 Stigler 9-2 Atoka 12-2 Coalgate 9-10:30	3 Wilburton 9-12 Broken Bow 9-2	4
5	6	7 Poteau (A-H) 9-2	8	9 Talihina 9-12	10	11
12	13 Bethel 9-10:30 Smithville 12-2	14	15 Idabel 9-12	16	17 Poteau (I-P) 9-2	18
19	20	21 Wright City 9-10:30 Hugo 12-2	22	23 Poteau (Q-Z) 9-2	24	25
26	27 Tribal Holiday	28	29 Closed Inventory	30 Closed Inventory	31 Closed Inventory	

Food Distribution Sites

ANTLERS – Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 200 S.W. “O” St.
 ATOKA – National Guard Armory.
 BETHEL – Choctaw Nation Community Building.
 BROKEN BOW – Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center.
 COALGATE – Choctaw Community Center.
 DURANT – Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr.
 HUGO – Housing Authority.
 IDABEL – Choctaw Village

Shopping Center.
 McALESTER – Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 1212 S. Main.
 POTEAU – Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center.
 SMITHVILLE – Big Lick Church.
 STIGLER – Choctaw Community Building.
 TALIHINA – Boys & Girls Club.
 WILBURTON – Choctaw Community Building.
 WRIGHT CITY – Choctaw Head Start Building.
 The Food Distribution Pro-

gram workers will take a 30 minute lunch break from 11:30 to 12 noon.
 Please bring boxes to pick up your commodities.
 If you cannot pick up commodities when you are scheduled, please notify the Food Distribution Office at 580-924-7773 so that you can be rescheduled to go to Antlers, Durant or McAlester.
 The Food Distribution Program does not discriminate because of sex, race, color, age, political beliefs, religion, handicapped or national origin.

AmeriCorps members needed for Wheelock Academy restoration

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has been awarded another AmeriCorps Grant to continue the restoration of historic Wheelock Academy near Millerton. Both full-time and part-time AmeriCorps members are needed for the project.
 AmeriCorps, a nationwide program, is designed to make positive contributions in a community and members are re-

warded with a living allowance and a substantial educational award. Full-time members will receive a living allowance of \$9,300 and an education award of \$4,725. Part-time members will receive approximately half that amount. Minimum age for AmeriCorps participants is 17 years old and they must be high school graduates or have or agree to obtain a GED and be a United

States citizen.
 The Wheelock Restoration Project will include relatively heavy physical labor. AmeriCorps participants can expect to learn restoration, construction and landscaping skills.
 AmeriCorps applications are available at Wheelock Academy. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Chester Crosby at 580-746-2502.

National Nutrition Month Day a success!

Each year in March National Nutrition Month is celebrated across the country. The Choctaw Nation Health Care Center celebrated Nutrition Day on March 28. The Nutrition Therapy Department hosted the event with the Health Education Department/REACH 2010 and Diabetes Wellness Center also participating. One hundred thirteen persons signed in for the festivities with many more unsigned coming through.

Healthy food samples and demonstrations included Mary Nell Southard, RD/LD, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, milling wheat that she uses in her homemade whole wheat bread. The bread samples were delicious! Samples of fruit



smoothies and fruit pizza were in big demand, whipped up by Cassie Crank, Nutrition Secretary, and Crystal Crank, Eye Clinic Secretary. Health Education/REACH 2010 Director Nancy Clark, RN, MS, and Doris Winlock, Program

Assistant, set up several display tables of educational materials. REACH 2010 provided refreshments of soy nuts and whole bran snacks, and 100% fruit juice. The 20-pound fat vest was tried on by a lot of people who were amazed at how heavy the vest felt. Annette Choate, RN, Diabetes Nurse Educator at the Broken Bow Satellite Clinic, set up the food pyramid display and provided diabetes information.

Door prizes were given throughout the day. Wayne Truitt and Lea Dudoit won diabetes cookbooks donated by the Diabetes Wellness Center. Leslie Duncan won the diabetes cookbook donated by the Nutrition Department. Theresa Byington, Rusa Harley, Leslie Duncan, Jackie Brown, Pam Wilcox, Nancy Habick, Kathy Coles, Gala Hotubbee, JoAnn Rutherford, and Crystal Crank all won the Beanie's donated by the REACH 2010 program. Dianne Gibson won the REACH 2010 backpack.



Nurses receive SANE Training

During the week of March 27-30, several nurses from the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina received training at the PC-CARE, Children's Advocacy Center in McAlester, Oklahoma to become SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners). The four-day course was organized by Nancy Jefferson. Attending were Jami Gaston, Cheryl Jordan, Debra Blue and Melissa Duncan. Congratulations to all those who completed the course.

Americans encouraged to take steps to reduce the risks of “pre-diabetes”

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy G. Thompson is warning Americans of the risks of “pre-diabetes,” a condition affecting nearly 16 million Americans. Pre-diabetes sharply raises the risk for developing type 2 diabetes and increases the risk of heart disease by 50 percent.

HHS-supported research shows that most people with pre-diabetes will likely develop diabetes within a decade unless they make modest changes in their diet and level of physical activity, which can help them reduce their risks and avoid the debilitating disease.

“The good news is if you have pre-diabetes, you can do something about it,” Secretary Thompson said. “We want people to know that pre-diabetes is a serious condition that can be reversed or alleviated with modest changes in their daily routines – such as eating fewer calories and walking regularly for exercise.”

Secretary Thompson and American Diabetes Association (ADA) President-Elect Dr. Francine Kaufman also unveiled an expert panel's new recommendations about pre-diabetes. The panel, convened by the ADA and HHS, calls for physicians to begin screening overweight people age 45 and older for pre-diabetes.

In addition, Secretary Thompson released an updated HHS estimate showing 17 million Americans suffer from diabetes – an increase of 8 percent from the most commonly used previous estimate. The new estimate is based on population changes in the most recent U.S. census.

HHS and ADA are using the new term “pre-diabetes” to describe an increasingly common condition in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal but not yet diabetic – known in medicine as impaired glucose tolerance or impaired fasting glucose. Studies have shown that most people with this condition go on to develop type 2 diabetes within 10 years.

The panel – which includes doctors and other diabetes experts, with representatives from HHS' National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – stated that intervention in pre-diabetes is critical for three reasons. First, simply having blood glucose levels in the pre-diabetes range puts a person at a 50 percent greater likelihood of having a heart attack or stroke. Second, research shows that the development of type 2 diabetes can be delayed or prevented through modest lifestyle improvements. Third, for many people, modest lifestyle improvements can “turn back the clock” and return elevated blood glucose levels to the normal range.

“This new recommendation gives physicians added incentive to screen their middle-aged, overweight patients for both type 2 diabetes and pre-diabetes,” Dr. Kaufman of the ADA said. “If you have pre-diabetes, you need to know it, so you can learn about the high risk of getting diabetes and the steps you can take to prevent it. If you already have diabetes, you need to be treated early to prevent complications.”

The panel recommended that doctors screen overweight people age 45 and older for pre-diabetes during regular office visits using either one of the standard tests that detect diabetes: the fasting blood glucose test, which identifies impaired fasting glucose, or the oral glucose tolerance.

The panel also recommended that physicians consider screening adults younger than age 45 if they are significantly overweight and have one or more of the following risk factors:

- family history of diabetes
- low HDL cholesterol and high triglycerides
- high blood pressure
- history of gestational diabetes or gave birth to a baby weighing more than 9 pounds
- belong to a minority group (American Indians, African-Americans, Hispanic Americans/Latinos and Asian American/Pacific Islanders are at increased risk for type 2 diabetes)

The expert panel did not recommend routine use of prescription drugs as initial treatment for people who have pre-diabetes. However, it did suggest that some people benefit from drug therapy, which may be considered when appropriate.

The recommendations resulted from the panel's analysis of several major studies that evaluated strategies to prevent type 2 diabetes, including HHS' Diabetes Prevention Program – a major clinical trial involving more than 3,000 people that showed prevention efforts can be effective. The Diabetes Prevention Program found that diet and exercise resulting in a 5- to 7-percent weight loss lowered the incidence of type 2 diabetes by 58 percent. Participants lost weight by cutting fat and calories in their diet and by exercising (most chose walking) at least 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week.

“About 16 million people in the country have pre-diabetes and most of them don't know it,” said panel member Dr. Judith Fradkin of NIDDK, which is part of HHS' National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The panel's recommendations will be published in the ADA's “Diabetes Care,” a peer-reviewed

journal of clinical research focused on the nation's fifth deadliest disease. The recommendations come as the incidence of obesity continues to rise despite growing evidence about its adverse effects on health and survival.

Diabetes is a disorder of metabolism in which people have problems converting food to energy. It is the leading cause of adult blindness, kidney failure, and non-traumatic amputations, and a major cause of heart disease and stroke.

More information about research and recent advances related to diabetes is available at www.niddk.nih.gov or by calling NIDDK's National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse at 1-800-860-8747.

Consumer information about diabetes is also available through the National Diabetes Education Program, an effort sponsored jointly by NIH and HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and 200 public and private partners, at www.ndep.nih.gov. Information about diabetes statistics and state programs is available at www.cdc.gov/diabetes or by calling 1-800-232-3422. More information about the ADA is available at www.diabetes.org or by calling 1-800-342-2383.

Smart solutions for people with diabetes

MEAL PLANNING WITH DIABETES

Like everyone, you should eat a variety of foods in moderate amounts. With diabetes, it is also important to have consistency in the amounts and types of food eaten and in the timing of meals and snacks.

A registered dietitian can help you build a meal plan that will manage your diabetes and fit with your lifestyle. Here are some helpful tips:

• Consistency counts
 Try to eat about the same amount of food at about the same time each day to keep blood glucose under control. If you're on the run, plan to pack something that's portable and portion-controlled.

• Keep moving
 Being physically active helps the insulin your body makes work better and can improve blood glucose levels. It's okay to have shorter periods of activity that add up to 30 minutes a day if one longer workout doesn't fit into your schedule. The key is to pick an activity you enjoy and stick with it. You may need to monitor your blood glucose levels more often when you first start. Check with your doctor or registered dietitian.

• Watch your weight
 Research shows that losing as little as ten pounds can improve control of Type 2 diabetes. If you need to lose weight try making a few small changes at a time. Focus on eating smaller portions, eating less fat and more vegetables and becoming more active.

• Today's guidelines for carbohydrates
 To better control your blood glucose levels, it's important to pay the most attention to the amount of carbohydrates you eat. Choose nutrient-rich carbohydrate foods often (whole-grain products, fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy products) and round

WIC WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN

out the rest of your meal plan with lean meat, fish and poultry.

• Sugars are carbohydrates, too
 Prior to 1994, people with diabetes were told to avoid sugars. It was assumed that sugars raised blood glucose levels more than other foods like potatoes, rice or beans. But research has shown that the effect of different carbohydrates on blood glucose is more complex.

Work with a registered dietitian to learn how much carbohydrate to eat and how to fit in occasional sweet foods. Remember that high blood glucose is the enemy, not a particular food. Check the nutrition facts panel on food labels for the Total Carbohydrate per serving to help you plan food choices.

• Sugar-free foods can help
 Although table sugar and other calorie-containing sweeteners are acceptable as part of the diabetes meal plan, you still want to use them sparingly. Sugar-free foods and beverages generally provide fewer calories and carbohydrates and can be great tasting choices as part of your strategy for holding blood glucose levels in line.

• The facts about fat
 Today, eating less fat in your diet is easier than ever with a variety of great-tasting food choices. By making lower fat and fat-free choices, you can help limit your intake of total fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, and calories. And eating less fat – especially less saturated fat – is one way to lessen your risk for heart disease.

If you or a family member has diabetes, you have a new focus in your life – to keep blood glucose levels as close to normal as possible. Making wise food choices and staying active will help.

FRUIT SMOOTHIE RECIPE

Makes 8 servings

- 1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen strawberries in a light syrup, thawed
- 2 containers (8 oz. each) vanilla lowfat yogurt
- 1 tub lemonade flavor low-calorie soft drink mix
- 5 cups cold water, divided
- Ice cubes

Place strawberries, yogurt, drink mix, and 1 cup of the water in blender container; cover. Blend on medium speed 1 minute or until smooth.

Pour into large plastic or glass pitcher. Stir in remaining 4 cups water. Serve over ice or refrigerate and stir before serving.

Nutrition information per serving: 90 calories, 1 gram total fat, 0.5 gram saturated fat, less than 5 mg cholesterol, 40 mg sodium, 19 grams total carbohydrate, less than 1 gram dietary fiber, 18 grams sugars, 3 grams protein, 25% Daily Value (DV) vitamin C, 10% DV calcium.

Diabetic exchanges: 1 carbohydrate

DIABETES RECIPE CONTEST

The Diabetes Wellness Center in Tahihina recently held a Diabetic Recipe Contest. Winners received Gift Certificates in each of four categories – Vegetables, Bread, Meat and Dessert – and one for most appealing to kids and one grand prize.

All recipes received will be compiled by Choctaw Nation for publication of a Diabetic Recipe Cookbook. All proceeds generated will be used to further the education and promotion to fight diabetes.

**– Grand Prize Winner –
BANANA OATMEAL CAKE**

In a large bowl, mix the following ingredients with a wooden spoon:

- 1 1/2 cups mashed ripe bananas
- 2/3 cup oil
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3/4 cup Fructose (sugar substitute)
- 2/3 cup buttermilk
- 1 egg

Mix in:

- 1 1/3 cups flour
- 2 tsps. soda
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 cup quick cooking oatmeal
- 1 1/2 tsps. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves

Stir in:

- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 2/3 cup raisins (optional)

Pour into a 13"x9" greased baking dish and bake at 350° for 30-35 minutes. Yield: 18 servings.



*Elizabeth Harkins
Coalgate, Oklahoma*

**– Most Appealing to Kids –
EASY MACARONI AND CHEESE**

- 1 box (7 ounces) elbow macaroni
- 1/4 cup fat-free half-and-half
- 10 ounces light process cheese loaf, cubed (such as Velveeta Light)
- 1 1/2 tsps. butter-flavor sprinkles (such as Butter Buds)
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

Fill a two-quart pan two-thirds full of water. Bring to a boil; add macaroni, stir, and cook until tender (about 6 to 8 minutes). Drain well. Add half-and-half, cubed processed cheese, butter-flavor sprinkles and pepper to the macaroni. Place over low heat and cook until cheese is melted; gently stir periodically. Yield: 5 cups.

*Joanne Webster
Indian Head, Maryland*

**– 1st Place Vegetable Recipe –
FRIED GREEN BEANS**

- 2 slices of turkey bacon (each cut into 4 pieces)
- 1 lb. package of frozen green beans
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion

Cook green beans according to package instructions. In a skillet, place bacon pieces, chopped onion and green beans. Cook and stir over medium heat until the bacon is crisp, usually 10-15 minutes. Yield: 6 servings.

*Ellen Gregory
Roanoke, Texas*

**– 1st Place Dessert Recipe –
DIABETIC JELLO**

- 2 large packages sugar-free lime Jello
- 1 1/4 cup small curd cottage cheese
- 1 cup crushed pineapple

Make one box of Jello according to directions. Pour into shallow pyrex pan. I use 11 3/4-by-7 1/2 pan. Chill Jello until firm. Make the other box of Jello in a bowl; chill until partially set. Add cottage cheese and pineapple. Mix together. Spread mixture on the plain Jello. Chill until firm.

*Harriet Amerman
Duncan, Oklahoma*

**– 1st Place Bread Recipe –
BLUEBERRY BUMPKINS**

- 1 cup flour
- 1 Tbsp. sugar replacement
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- Dash of salt
- 2 Tbsp. liquid vegetable shortening
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/3 cup blueberries (fresh or well drained)

Combine flour, sugar replacement, baking powder and salt in mixing bowl. Add shortening, egg and milk. Stir until blended. Fold in blueberries. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto greased baking sheet. Bake at 400° for 15 to 20 minutes. Yield: 7 servings

*Florence Campbell
Broken Bow, Oklahoma*

**– 1st Place Meat Recipe –
EASY DIETETIC MEAT LOAF**

Soften 2 slices well-browned toast in 1/2 cup non-fat skim milk. Add:

- 1 lb. lean hamburger
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1/2 cup minced onion
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

Form into a loaf and place in the center of a baking dish. Top with 1/2 cup of chili sauce and pour 1/2 cup condensed beef bouillon around loaf. Bake at 350° for 1 1/2 hours. Serves 4.

*Patsy France
Burbank, California*

PRINCESS PAGEANTS

DISTRICT 1

The District 1 Princess Pageant will be 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 25 at the Choctaw Community Center in Idabel. Deadline for applications is April 30. For more information or applications, please contact Vicky Amos at 580-286-6116.

DISTRICT 2

The District 2 Princess Pageant will be 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 24, at the Choctaw Nation Investment Center in Broken Bow. Deadline for applications is May 10. For more information or applications, please call Cathy Roberts at 580-584-2045.

DISTRICT 4

The District 4 Princess Pageant will be Saturday, June 1 at the Family Investment Center in Poteau. Deadline for applications is May 15. A \$1,000 Carl Albert Jr. College scholarship will be awarded the senior division winner. Prizes will also be awarded in the junior and little miss divisions. To compete in the senior division applicants must be 18 to 23 years old; junior division, 13 to 17 years old, and little miss, 8-12. Applications may be sent to Delton Cox, Tribal Councilman, 103 E. George, Pocola, OK 74902.

DISTRICT 5

The District 5 Princess Pageant will be 6 p.m. Friday, May 10, at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Stigler. Deadline for applications is April 30. For more information or applications, please call 918-967-2398.

DISTRICT 8

The District 8 Princess Pageant will be 7 p.m. Saturday, June 8 at the Choctaw Community Center in Hugo. Deadline for applications is May 24. For more information or applications, please contact District 8 Councilman Perry Thompson at 580-326-9466.

DISTRICT 9

The District 9 Princess Pageant will be 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 31 on the Courthouse Lawn during the Magnolia Festival in Durant. Deadline for applications is April 30. Applicants must live in District 9 of the Choctaw Nation, be between the ages of 8 and 23, single with no dependents and at least 1/16 Choctaw. For more information and an application, please contact Kay Jackson or Martha Polk at 1-800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2203.

DISTRICT 10

The District 10 Princess Pageant will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 8 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Atoka. Deadline for applications to be received is April 30. For more information, please contact Naomi Leflore, P.O. Box 311, Lehigh, OK 74556 or 580-927-3377 or the Choctaw Field Office at 580-889-6147.

POW Wows

9th Annual Inter-Tribal Pow-Wow

Saturday, April 20
Southeastern Oklahoma State University Activity Building
North 1st & Dunlap, Durant, Oklahoma

- 3:30 p.m. Gourd Dancing
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Gourd Dancing
- 8:00 p.m. Grand Entry
- Inter-Tribal Dancing
- 11:30 p.m. Closing Song

Everyone welcome – Free and open to the public
Arts & Crafts open at 10 a.m.
Food Concessions open at 11 a.m.
Bring your own Pow-Wow chairs
For more information, call
580-924-9411 or 580-434-5875

No alcoholic beverages or drugs permitted on premises. Not responsible for theft, injury, accidents, lost or stolen items.

Kandace Rae Folsom 2002 Graduation PowWow

Saturday, May 18
Farmers Market, 1010 S. Pearl, Dallas, Texas
• 2 p.m. Gourd Dancing • 6 p.m. Gourd Dancing
• 5 p.m. Choctaw Dancers • 7 p.m. Grand Entry
Bring Your Own Chairs
For vendor information, please call
Mike McDonald at 972-881-8131
or Lang Carruthers at 972-286-8833
For PowWow information, please call
Eugene Folsom at 214-324-4146
or Angel Frazier-Hernandez at 972-289-0845

Gray Horse War Mothers Annual Soldier Dance

Saturday, May 11
Gray Horse Community Building
Gray Horse Indian Village
East of Fairfax, Oklahoma
Turn East on Taft, off State Highway 18
– 2 p.m. Flag Raising –
– 5:30 p.m. Supper Break –

Reunions

Ritter/Spears/McCoy/Harper Family Reunion

A family reunion will be held June 8 at Quarry Island on Wister Lake for relatives of Isaac "Ike" and Georgia Ritter, Frank and Jennie Ritter, Spears (Speers), McCoy, Harpers or anyone else whom I may have missed. Please bring a covered dish and something to drink. A little donation would be deeply appreciated to help on the reunion. If you need any information, please contact Imogene (McCoy) Odell, 507 Chickasaw St., Poteau, OK 74953 or call 918-647-3791 or 918-647-7596.

Bloomfield Carter Seminary Reunion

All former students and employees are invited to attend the Bloomfield Carter Seminary Reunion, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 18, 2002 in the Carter Seminary Gymnasium. The reunion is always held the first Saturday after Mother's Day. For information, please call Roberta Williams at 580-889-1931 or Dorothy Holt at 580-226-4869.

Bohanon Family Reunion

The annual Bohanon Family Reunion is being held at the Tex-Ok-La campgrounds in Wright City, Oklahoma. Activities begin May 24 at Ole Zoe Ray Cemetery for clean-up and campfire cookout, then continues at the campgrounds for family games, auction, lunch and meeting. Come and enjoy a weekend of family fellowship! For more information contact Diana at babyruth-76-2000@yahoo.com.

Talihina "Yesterday" 2002 Reunion

All alumni, former students, teachers and employees are invited to attend the Talihina "Yesterday" 2002 Reunion on May 25, during Memorial Day weekend. The reunion will include all those who graduated, attended, worked and played in the Talihina Public School system since its first graduating class in 1922 to the present 2002 class.

Registration is Saturday from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. This will include the Brunch & the Dance "Sock Hop" with a live band on Saturday evening.

For more information, please contact: Terry Transue, President, P.O. Box 541, Talihina, OK 74571 or 918-567-4040; MaryEllen Tidwell, Secretary, P.O. Box 687, Talihina, OK 74571 or 918-567-3254 or 567-2285; Jackie England, Vice President, P.O. Box 975, Talihina, OK 74571 or 918-567-2612 or 567-2285.

More information may also be found on the websites, www.talihina.k12.ok.us.com or www.classmates.com.

King/Potts/McGee/Springs Family Reunion

All descendants of Horace and Judy Potts, John and Jimmie McGee, Dave and Ada Springs and Bill and Joanna King are urged to attend the fourth King family reunion at 10 a.m. May 25 at Cupco Baptist Church in Yanush, Oklahoma. Please bring a covered dish. For further information contact A.L. Wilmoth, 918-522-4449, or Janelle Kirkes, 918-522-4309.

Beames Family Reunion

Descendants of relatives of Josiah "Joe" and Minnie Elba (Sauls) Beames are invited to a family reunion beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 22 at Haggard Hall on the Bryan County Fair Grounds, 9th Street in Durant. Please bring a meat, vegetable or dessert for the potluck lunch. Come one, come all – bring any family pictures, family trees or articles related to our family and be sure to notify all of your relatives.

For further information, please call Glen Beames at 972-366-3507.

OK Choctaw Annual Picnic

The OK Choctaw Annual Picnic is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 18 in the A-frame at Earlywine Park, SW 119th and May Ave. in Oklahoma City. Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and soda will be furnished. If your last name begins with the letter "A" to "L" you are requested to bring a dessert. If your last name begins with "M" to "Z", please bring baked beans or a salad. Bring lawn chairs and get ready to have a good time!

Mark your calendars!!!

Senior Citizens Day is May 29

Senior Citizens Day kicks off at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 29 at the Choctaw Bingo in Durant.

As in the past, everyone will be able to enjoy a great lunch and lots of fun activities. Door prizes will be given and the ever-popular hat and singing contests are planned. If anyone needs transportation, please call your local field office or the Choctaw Nation headquarters. Transportation is also being provided to Choctaws living in the Chickasaw Nation boundaries. Please call 580-924-8280, ext. 2272 or toll free 1-800-522-6170.

The Choctaw Nation Modular Plant in Stigler, Oklahoma is seeking donations of artwork from Choctaw artists who would like to have their artwork displayed in the new facility. To make a donation, please contact Sandy at the Stigler Modular Plant, 310 Park Ave., Stigler, OK 74462 or call 918-967-4332. Any donation is welcome in the staff's efforts to add a cultural atmosphere to the plant administration area.

Jones Academy BB gun shooters

Jones Academy BB Gun Shooters had their first competitive shoot in McAlester on March 9, 2002. The team took second place with a total of 1,887 points. The winning team had 2,000 total points. Jones Academy also was awarded the Best Sportsmanship trophy. They were competing against teams that had been shooting for three to nine years. This is Jones Academy's first year to compete.

The Jones Academy Club will be traveling to Atlanta, Georgia in July for the National BB Gun Shoot.

Congratulations to Coach Roger Wolf and team members Frank Esparza, Santos Garcia, Charli Clairmont, Roberta Dixon, Ashley Collins, Kelly King, Julie Ellis, Samantha Oldman, Shannon Leflore, Alicia Moore, Stacey Salkey. Stacey, Roberta and Santos were individual winners.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY			1	2	3 Idabel 10 am-2 pm	4
5	6	7 Durant 10-12 noon	8 Stigler by appt. only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	9	10 Broken Bow 9:30 am-2 pm	11
12	13 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	14	15 Coalgate 10 am-2 pm	16	17 Poteau 11 am-1:30 pm	18
19	20 Antlers 1-3:30 pm	21 Durant by appt only	22 McAlester by appt only	23	24 Wright City 9:30 am-2 pm	25
26	27	28 Wilburton 10:30 am-2 pm	29 Atoka 10:30 am-2 pm	30	31 Bethel by appt only	

A Vocational Rehabilitation and Disability Employment Representative will be available at the locations listed above. A representative is available Monday thru Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.



Happy 81st birthday

Happy 81st birthday to Willard Mitchell of Hillsborough, North Carolina! The family celebrated his birthday with his wife, Ruth, and other family members at daughter Barbara (Mitchell) Seago's home, also in Hillsborough. Other direct Choctaw descendants joining in singing "Happy Birthday" were granddaughter Kim (Seago) Howard and great-grandchildren Katie and Patrick Howard.

Willard is the son of Arizona (McCurley/Curley) Mitchell, grandson of Rhoda (Tolbert) McCurley, and great-grandson of Nelly Tolbert, all original enrollees of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Willard was born March 15, 1921 in Blanchard, Oklahoma but his lineage originated from the Poteau (Sugarloaf County) area. He also lived in Foster and Pauls Valley, Oklahoma while growing up.

Durants celebrate 62nd anniversary

W.D. and Neomi Durant were married April 13, 1940 in Bennington, Oklahoma. They lived in Bennington until 1942, then moved to Casa Grande, Arizona. They have four children, Wayne and Joyce Durant, Bill and Sharon Durant, Sharon and Scott Devore, all of Casa Grande, and Bob and Frankie Durant of Show Low, Arizona, eight grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

W.D. and Neomi have been active in church for about 54 years and are still working for the Lord. Grandma was a Sunday School teacher for many years and was also secretary and treasurer for over 20 years. Grandpa played guitar for church services until three years ago. They are both 80 years old.

All of their family and friends would like to say, "Happy 62nd anniversary!" and wish them the best they have ever had, with love and prayers for their future years.



Happy first, Jordan

We would like to wish Jordan a happy first birthday on March 14, 2002. He is the son of Sheala and Alvin A. Hodge of Mena, Arkansas.

Jordan's grandparents are George and Daisy Watson of Watson, Oklahoma.

Sumpter is valedictorian

Feliz Sumpter will be graduating from Morenci, Arizona High School on May 24. She is class valedictorian, drum major for the school band, president of National Honor Society, president of Science Club, and a member of Spanish Honor Society. She also works part time at one of our local restaurants as a line cook. Her plan after graduation is to attend Scottsdale Culinary Institute (affiliated with Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, France) in Scottsdale, Arizona in order to become a chef. Her parents are Scott Sumpter and Diana Gonzalez-Sumpter of Morenci, Arizona; grandparents are Nora McKenney, Juan Gonzalez, and Julie and the late Dixon D. Sumpter, both formerly of Oklahoma.



Happy 20th birthday

Belated happy birthday wishes to Felicia "Fefe" Ann John from Philadelphia, Mississippi. She turned 20 years old on January 10, 2002. Currently, she is attending Haskell Indian Nations University and playing for the Indians on the softball team.

She is the daughter of Alfreda and Freeman John and the granddaughter of the late Lucy and Justin Hardy and the late Oden John.

Boys celebrate birthdays

Belated happy birthday wishes to Cobi Bryce John, left, who turned two years old on January 18. Cobi is pictured with his brothers, Dexton Nickey, sitting on the top, and Chaney Hunter John. Birthday wishes also go to Chaney who turned one year old on March 26. The boys are the grandchildren of Alfreda and Freeman John and the great-grandchildren of the late Lucy and Justin Hardy and the late Oden John.



Look who's 14!

Tiffany Lyn Seagraves of Panama, Oklahoma celebrated her 14th birthday on April 15. Tiffany is an A Honor Roll student. She plays softball and basketball, shows livestock, and enjoys riding horses. She is the daughter of Everett Seagraves.

Happy birthday and lots of love – Dad, Salora and William!

Zoe turns one year old

Zoe Marie Wallace turned one year old on April 5.

She is the daughter of "Big Al" Athena Wallace and the granddaughter of J.D. Wallace and Vera Thomas, all of Oklahoma City.

All Zoe's aunts, uncles and cousins wish her a happy first birthday.



Athena has April birthday

Athena "Big Al" Wallace celebrated her birthday on April 27.

She is the daughter of J.D. Wallace and Vera Thomas, both of Oklahoma City.

All of your family wish you a happy birthday!

Lula Belle celebrates 83rd birthday



Lula Belle (Everidge) Shirm celebrated her 83rd birthday on December 16, 2001. She was born in Whitesboro, Oklahoma, near Talihina. She grew up in Choctaw County near Hugo, Oklahoma. Her parents were Edward and Pearl Everidge. She has two sisters, Claudia Dillard and Leona Messer, and a brother, Henry, who is deceased.

She graduated from Goodland Indian School in the Class of 1938 and from Southeastern State College in Durant, Oklahoma in 1942. She received a Master of Education Degree from the North Adams State College, North Adams, Massachusetts, in 1966. During World War II, she served in the U.S. Coast Guard (SPARS).

Lula Belle resides in Williamstown, Massachusetts with her husband, George. They are the parents of two daughters, Claudia Victoria Harvey of Essex, Massachusetts and Martha May Barrett of Pelham, New Hampshire.

Sisters celebrate March birthdays

Birthday wishes go out to Valerie and Heather Watson. Valerie turned 14 on March 21 and Heather turned 15 on March 23.

The young ladies are the daughters of George and Daisy Watson of Watson, Oklahoma.



Thunder turns one!

Thunder Lee Reese McKinney celebrates his first birthday on April 25. Thunder was born at DeQueen Regional to Eric Harley and Diana McKinney of Idabel, Oklahoma.

Proud grandparents are Mike "Bear" and Una Harley and David and Marsha McKinney, all of Idabel. Great-grandparents are Olen and Maude Durant of Sobol, Oklahoma, Roy and Effilene Harley and Ray and Helen Hester. Thunder's great-great-grandmother is Ella Austin of Idabel.

Engagement announcement

Mr. and Mrs. Richard McKinney of Kingwood, Texas are proud to announce the engagement of her daughter, Laurie Michelle Townsend, to Jeremy Paul Williams, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Williams of San Marcos, Texas.

Laurie and Jeremy are both graduates of Texas A&M University in College Station. Laurie received a Master of Science in Accounting and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. She is currently employed as a Tax Consultant with Ernst & Young's Houston office. Jeremy received a Bachelor of Science in Education with an emphasis in Sport Management. He is currently employed as the Community Program Director with the Lake Houston Family YMCA.

The couple plans to be married May 25, 2002 at First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood.



Happy first birthday!

Wishes for a happy first birthday go out to Jordan Sundance Ferrell of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was born April 5, 2001 at Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City. Proud parents are Michael Sundance Ferrell and Gerylyn (Precious) Ferrell of Oklahoma City.

Proud grandparents are Virginia Brown of Oklahoma City, Les Ferrell of Louisiana and Barbara Chevarillo of El Reno, Oklahoma and the late Jesse York. Great-grandmother is Anna (Smith) Harjo of Atoka, Oklahoma. Jordan's Uncle Apollo Ferrell also wishes him a happy birthday.

Jesse York. Great-grandmother is Anna (Smith) Harjo of Atoka, Oklahoma. Jordan's Uncle Apollo Ferrell also wishes him a happy birthday.

Ward places third in dribbling contest

Congratulations to LaDonna Ward for placing third out of 3,000 participants in the Dallas Mavericks Dribbling Contest. She received an autographed basketball, two T-shirts and five tickets.



Belated happy birthday!

Stephanie and Leroy Wallace recently celebrated their birthdays. Stephanie turned six on March 3.

She is the daughter of "Baby" Sue Wallace of Ft. Cobb and the niece of Tonya Wallace. Her grandparents are J.D. Wallace and Vera Thomas. All of your aunts, uncles and cousins wish you many more!

Leroy "Brother Man" Wallace celebrated his birthday on April 20. Your brothers, sister, cousin, nieces and nephews want to wish you a happy birthday!

Happy ninth, Amber!

Amber Holman turned nine years old on April 21.

She is the daughter of the late Ralph Holman and Kesa Horse. She is the granddaughter of the late Wanda Wallace and Ruth Moncada.

All of your aunts, uncle and cousins wish you many more!



Jaznym turns two

Jaznym Chenault turned two years old on April 28. She is the daughter of Renee Chenault and Kevin Dean of Oklahoma City. She is the granddaughter of Ruth Moncada of Oklahoma City and Floyd Chenault of Clarksville, Arkansas. Your aunts, uncle, cousins and brother, Jalen, wish you a happy birthday.



Editor of the Year

Devon Abbott Mihesuah, granddaughter of an original enrollee, recently won the Wordcrafters' Circle of Native Writers' Journal Editor of the Year Award for her work as editor of the "American Indian Quarterly." In addition, her novel, "The Roads of My Relations" (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2000) won the Oklahoma

Writers' Federation Trophy Award for the Best Book of Fiction in 2000.

Based on her family stories, the novel chronicles eleven generations of a Choctaw family. Devon is Professor of Applied Indigenous Studies and History at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

Baskin on OSU

Dean's Honor Roll

Granny Mattie B. Jones of Kiowa, Oklahoma is very proud of her granddaughter, Rachel Ann Baskin of Durant, Oklahoma. She is a student at OSU in Stillwater and made the Dean's Honor Roll.

Students who completed courses with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher with no incomplete grades or grades below a "C" were placed on the Dean's Honor Roll.



Happy birthday, Ann!

Happy birthday to Ann Etta Baskin of Durant, Oklahoma. Her birthday is April 9.

Ann's mother, Mattie B. Jones, and her brothers, Fred and Jeff Warden, all of Kiowa, Oklahoma, send her best wishes.

She has been teaching in Durant for 24 years.

Kya turns one on April 21

Happy birthday to Kya Maekay Pelayo who turned one year old on April 21.

Kya's parents are Dee Hawk and Tony Pelayo of Calera. Debbie Gilmore of Lawrence, Kansas is Kya's grandmother. Her great-grandparents include Even-Rosa Gilmore of Calera and Kenneth and Barbra Wilson of Anadarko, Oklahoma.



Happy 11th, Britney!

Britney Whitley turned eleven on April 10.

Happy birthday from all of us – Hayley, Tammy, Billy, Pa, Granna, Bo, Mimi and your best friend, Heather, and the Pirates #1 this year.

We all love you!

Happy birthday!

Dianna Rosenkoetter celebrated her birthday on April 8.

Happy birthday from your kids and grandkids – Billy, Steve, Danny, Britney, Tammy, Hayley and Whitley. Have a great one! We all love you!



Birthday greetings

Sophia Impson would like to send birthday greetings to her whole family, including a special greeting to the head of her family, a very special person to me, my Aunt, Mrs. Evelyn Cole, who is 81 this year. Happy birthday, Auntie, I love you!



Happy birthday!!!

Happy birthday wishes go out to Wilson Taylor, Jr., Velma Whisenhunt and Jessie Taylor. They all celebrated birthdays in April.

Wilson, Velma and Jessie's parents are Wilson and Deloris Taylor of Sobol, Oklahoma. Happy birthday!

C.J. celebrates first birthday

Happy first birthday wishes go to Cordell Jefferson Briley of Wright City, Oklahoma. He was born April 27, 2001 at Talihina Indian Hospital.

Proud parents are Robert and Edwanna Briley. We also want to wish Robert a happy birthday on March 29 and Richard a happy 15th birthday.

Grandparents are Lavada Baker and the late Madison Baker of Wright City and the late Earnestine and the late Hosie Briley of Valliant, Oklahoma.



An Easter greeting

To Paw-Paw Carlo and Granny Lottie Wilson, we are sending an Easter greeting from Mesa, Arizona and hope that you receive this in good health and spirits. Thank you so much for the Easter gifts as you never forget us. We love you and miss you very much – Zac, Erica and Carlo Wilson.



Happy birthday, Tina!

Tina Renee Chenault celebrated her birthday on April 16.

She is the daughter of Floyd Chenault of Clarksville, Arkansas and Ruth Moncada of Oklahoma City.

Tierra and Michelle want to wish you a happy birthday from all of us in Oklahoma City.



Amber Bohanan named Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year

Amber Bohanan, 15, has been selected as the 2002 Youth of the Year for the Battiest Boys & Girls Club. Sponsored by the Reader's Digest Association and administered by Boys & Girls Club of America, the national program recognizes exemplary character, superior leadership skills, outstanding service to Boys & Girls Club and the community and academic achievement.



A six-year member of the Boys & Girls Club of Battiest, Bohanan is a positive role model for today's young people. Amber is the daughter of Mary Bohanan of Battiest and Franklin Jefferson of Broken Bow. She has one brother, Robbi, and one sister, Abby.

Among Amber's accomplishments are ranking "Superior" in the solo division and will compete at the state level. She has had two poems published.

After high school, Amber plans to attend Carl Albert State Col-

lege, majoring in child care.

She has participated in all the scheduled programs at the club. Her favorite is The Keystone Club, in which the youth learn how to have a successful fundraiser, how to socialize with the community and other members, how to hold regular scheduled meetings, learn responsibility and to trust other members.

"Basically what this club teaches me is character and leadership," Amber said.

She competed against Boys & Girls Club youth for the Oklahoma state youth of the year title. Five regional winners selected from among the state winners will receive \$5,000 scholarships and compete for the national

honor in Washington, D.C., where the National Youth of the Year will be installed by the President in a White House ceremony in September. The national winner will receive an additional \$10,000 scholarship from the Reader's Digest Association, sponsor of the program since its inception in 1947.

The Boys & Girls Club has played an integral role in the Battiest community for six years, providing daily programs and services to a number of young people. The club is open Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. with programs being ran to help members become productive citizens. For more information about the club, please call 580-241-5413.

Davises celebrate 33rd anniversary



Jerry and Marian Davis celebrated their 33rd anniversary on April 11, 2002. They are both full-blood Choctaws from Oklahoma who now reside in Dallas, Texas.

Jerry and Marian have three daughters, Patricia Davila of New Mexico and Jerri Arredondo and Duana Davis, both of Dallas. They have five granddaughters, Jessica Ann Davila, Ruby Marie Arredondo, Veronica Arredondo, Sylvia Ann Garza and Desiree Alyssa Davis.

Happy 56th wedding anniversary

Charles W. Brewer and Rexine Estelle Brock-Brewer were married in Modesto, California on March 23, 1946. Rexine was born in Purcell, Oklahoma on October 7, 1926. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Charles was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on October 12, 1919. Their four children, Donna, John, Wayne and Dorothy send congratulations and wish them a happy 56th!



Way to go, Chelsea!

Chelsea Jo Feather Paxton-Long, 12, of Ramona, California is a cheerleader for the Pop Warner Ramona Red Dawgs.

Her 35-member team has placed second at the local San Diego competition in October 2001; first at the Regional "Best in the West" competition in Tucson, Arizona in November 2001, and went on to the National competition at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida where they placed 14th out of 4,000 teams that competed nationwide in December 2001.

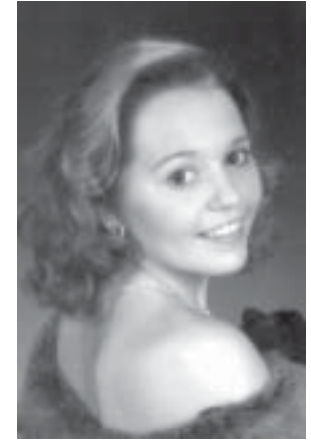
Feather is the granddaughter of Gabe Paxton of Talihina. They enjoy visiting Talihina once or twice a year. Stepdad, mother and brother are Steve, Nancy and Tanner Long of Ramona, California. Feather's late father is Joe Barnett of Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Nathan Smith places in state wrestling meet

On February 9, Nathan Smith placed second in the Arizona State High School Wrestling Championship for the 4A Heavyweight Conference Division. Nathan is the grandson of the late Clyde C. Smith of Mead and Durant, Oklahoma.

Nathan was also the Regional Champion for 2001 and 2002. He is a senior and attends Thunderbird High School in Phoenix, Arizona.

Nathan's first year of wrestling was the 2000-01 season in which he placed sixth in the 2001 state championship.



Belated happy birthday, Ashley

Belated happy birthday wishes go to Ashley Manasco of Soso, Mississippi who turned Sweet 16 on January 11. She is the daughter of proud parents, David and Loretta Manasco of Soso.

Ashley is the granddaughter of Jessie Lawrence and the late Leroy Lawrence of Hugo, Oklahoma and the late Luke and Eola Mae Manasco of Many, Louisiana.

Birthday greetings for Sara and Jeffrey Redfearn

Happy birthday to Sara and Jeffrey Redfearn. They both celebrated a birthday on April 19.

Sara turned Sweet 16. She is a member of The Colony High School's debate team and enjoys shopping at Stonebriar Mall.

Jeffrey, who turned 12, attends Peters Colony Elementary School and enjoys playing games on the computer. Both live in The Colony, Texas.

Happy birthday from Mom and Dad, Leroy and Diane Redfearn.

Happy anniversary

Happy anniversary to Josh and Mary Hampton who were married one year on March 17.



Happy birthday, Timmy Williams

Timothy Paul Williams turned 16 on March 18.

Happy birthday, Timmy, from your big sister. I love you!

Four generations

Maximus Jaye Piercefield, a great-great-great-great-grandson of former Choctaw Chief Green McCurtain, was born August 29, 2001.

He is pictured with his father, Michael Piercefield of Loveland, Colorado; grandmother, Sheryl McCurtain of San Antonio, Texas, and great-grandfather, Jim McCurtain, of Big Spring, Texas.



Birthday wishes for Gabriel Louis

Birthday wishes go out to Gabriel Louis of Durant, Oklahoma who turned six years old on April 22. He attends Northwest Heights where he is a kindergarten student.

Gabriel enjoys baseball, basketball, dominoes, fishing, soccer, tennis, video games, making planes and being with his family and friends.

He is the son of Terry Louis of Durant and Corey and Jamie McGee of Oklahoma City. His grandparents are Lillian Louis of Dallas, Texas and Grandma Ida of Grant, Oklahoma. He is the great-grandson of Jesse and Frankie McGee of Gay and the late Rev. Williams and Pearley Louis of Wright City.

Gabriel would like to wish his Uncle Ray a happy birthday!

Ceremony is two

Ceremony Rose Brown celebrated her birthday on April 4. She turned two years old! Ceremony is the daughter of Missouri and Darryl Brown of Hugo, Oklahoma. She is the granddaughter of Katherine Battiest of Hugo and Martha Ferguson of Philadelphia, Mississippi.

She enjoys watching OU football with her dad and family. Also, Ceremony wants to wish her aunt DJ a happy birthday on April 6.



Summer youth program a success

To the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, Kay and Martha:

The Cinderella's Play and Learn in Idabel, Oklahoma would like to thank the Summer Youth Program, WIA and JTPA Program for a successful year. Thank you.

Cinderella Deramus and staff, Anita Schroyer, Lorenda Berruquin and Kandace Qualls

Choctaws should apply for CDIB, Tribal Membership

Spring has sprung and the bell will soon stop ringing - school will be out for the summer. This will be the last bell for many high school students. They are off to a college or university of their choice.

For those small ones who will begin school this fall, it is a very interesting and yet questionable time.

All of this means that if you or your school-age child doesn't have CDIB and Tribal Membership cards, now is the time to apply. Remember, you must have both a CDIB and Tribal Membership to receive any assistance with school supplies and related items. Please do not wait until the last minute to apply. There are several requirements that must be met before a CDIB card can be issued or reissued.

Keep in mind, a CDIB is not a tribal card. CDIBs are issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and are signed by a BIA employee.

Happy Spring and have a wonderful fun-filled summer vacation!

Hannah Grace Nations

Hannah Grace Nations was born August 31, 2001 at Carl Albert Indian Hospital in Ada, Oklahoma. She weighed 7 pounds, 13.5 ounces and was 19.6 inches long.



Proud parents are Brian and Tawnya Nations of Millerton, Oklahoma. Her grandparents are Tim and Beverly Stuart of Valliant, Bob and Cherie Beene of Swink, Joyce Nations of Valliant and the late Benny Nations.

Great-grandparents are Buddy and Mildred Stuart of Millerton, Doug and Nelda Sherrell of Edmond, Gwen Beene of Swink and the late Earnest Beene of Swink, Sadie Nations of Valliant and the late Clarence Nations and Mildred Graves of Valliant and the late Henry Graves. Great-great-grandmother is Gladys Sherrell of Chandler, Oklahoma.

Jeron Kaniatobe Carroll

David and Wessie Carroll of Tahlequah, Oklahoma would like to announce the birth of their son, Jeron Kaniatobe Carroll. Jeron was born on December 20, 2001, weighing 8 pounds, 7.5 ounces and he measured 21 inches long.



Grandparents are Vickie Brokeshoulder of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Donovan Brown of Gallup, New Mexico and Kim Kaniatobe Carroll of Tahlequah. Great-grandparents include Chuck and Ruth McHenry of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Rita Robertson of Anadarko, Oklahoma and Thelma Kaniatobe of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Jeron is the great-great-grandson of the late David Kaniatobe of Idabel.

Hannah Marie Wall

Hannah Marie Wall was born at 9:50 p.m. on January 19, 2002 in Lich, Germany. She weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces. Proud parents are Shawna Lynn Tisho-Wall and Tommy Dewayne Wall. Her grandparents are Wayne Tisho and Wynema Kemp-Willis, both of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, Brenda Smith of Ashdown, Arkansas and David Wall of Texarkana, Texas. Great-grandparents are Newman and Mary Tisho of Broken Bow, Oklahoma and David O. and Lucille Wall of Nash, Texas.



John David Ewing Anderson, Jr.

John David Ewing Anderson, Jr. was born at Parkland Memorial Hospital on January 15, 2002, weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces. Jr.'s parents are John David Ewing Anderson, Sr. and Natasha Barron. Grandparents are Candelaria Anderson and Guillermo Guterrez. Great-grandparents are Sophia L. Impson and the late Sailor J. Anderson. Great-great-grandparents were the late Dickey and Myrtle Bohanon-Impson. Welcoming him to the family are his great uncles, Patrick J. Anderson and Richard A. Gomez. Uncles are Brandon, Jeremy and Kenneth Anderson of Dallas, Texas.



Caleb Alec Williams

Kenton Marland Williams would like to announce the birth of his new baby brother, Caleb Alec Williams. He was born January 31, 2002 at the OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 17.5 inches long.



Proud parents are Ryan and Tina Williams of Midwest City, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Paul and Hanna Williams of Del City, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Marland and Sue Ashalintubbi of Eagletown, Oklahoma.

Briana Nicole Derby

Phyllis and Shubert Leach of Spiro, Oklahoma would like to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Briana Nicole, to the proud parents of Charles "Chuck" Derby of Talihina and Gina Moore of Spiro. Briana was born at 12:35 p.m. March 6, 2002 at Crawford Memorial Hospital in Van Buren, Arkansas. She weighed 7 pounds, 13.5 ounces and measured 19.75 inches long. She was welcomed home by her brother, Zachary Moore, who is eight years old.



Austin Keith Hunter Johnson

Austin Keith Hunter Johnson arrived March 25, 2002, weighing 8 pounds, 14 ounces and measuring 21 inches long. He was born at Central Valley Hospital in Hanford, California.



Proud parents are Joseph and Shiann Johnson of Lemoore, California. Austin's big sister is Aspen Claire Johnson.

Grandparents are Keith and Catherine Boles of Coalinga, California, Phil and Pat Sims of Southern California, Mary Sims of Southern California, Bruce Johnson of Turlock, California, Angie and Ralph White of Coalinga. His extended family also includes Grandma and Grandpa, Pat and Cliff Johnson, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Austin is the great-grandson of the late Clara and Garvin Hunter from whom he gets his Choctaw and Cherokee Indian blood. He is the great-great-grandson of the late Aniel Dale Hunter, a Choctaw original enrollee. Austin is named after his Grandpa Keith and his Choctaw Grandpa's Indian heritage, Hunter.



Durant Day Care's Easter egg hunt was fun for everyone.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh visit the Bennington Head Start class, Teacher Tera Trammell and Teacher's Aid Priscilla Rochelle on Easter egg hunt day.



The Antlers Head Start class had a great time hunting Easter eggs in the Little People Park.



Hugo Head Start students are so excited and can't wait to search out all the hidden treasure.



Coalgate's Head Start pose for a pretty picture with their Easter baskets.



Stigler Day Care kids and teachers April Pike and Jennifer Johnson joined in the egg hunt.



It's all smiles for the Stigler Head Start students and teachers Kathy and Machel.



The oldest group to hunt Easter eggs at Tushka Homma were ages nine to twelve. Prize eggs were found by Barry Williams and Jeremiah Taylor.



District 7 Councilman Jack Austin hosted a huge Easter egg hunt March 23 at Tushka Homma. There were 1,500 eggs hidden for the children to find with two prize eggs in each age group. Babies to 4-year-olds made up the youngest group. Tristan Burt and Dusty Belvin found the prize eggs.



The five- to eight-year-old group of Easter egg hunters gather for a photo with Councilman Austin. Jason Bugos and Nicole Loeffler found the prize eggs.

Jones Academy successful at Pittsburg County

March 6 through 8 marked the Pittsburg County Jr. Livestock Show in the McAlester Expo Center. Jones Academy students' hard work and daily dedication paid off for them at the event.

The swine show began with the breeding gilts. Jones Academy students placing in the breeding gilt show were Sam Fixico, first, Breed Champion Berk; James Roubidoux, first, Breed Champion Chester; James Roubidoux, second, Reserve Champion Chester; Josh Isaac, first, Breed Champion Duroc; Chad McGirt, first, Breed Champion Poland; Chad McGirt, second, Reserve Breed Champion Poland; Chris Johnson, first, Breed Champion Spot; Chris Johnson, second, Reserve Breed Champion Spot, and Josh Isaac, first, Breed Champion Yorkshire. Josh Isaac

captured Grand Champion Breeding Gilt honors with his Breed Champion Duroc gilt.

Jones Academy students placing in the market show were Dakota LeFlore, first, Class 1 Berk; Derrick James, first, Reserve Breed Champion Chester; Angel Andrade, third, Class 3 Duroc; Glenda Autaubo, second, Class 4 Duroc; Caylen Ahtone, third, Class 4 Duroc; Roy Hedge, first, Reserve Breed Champion Duroc; Angel Andrade, second, Class 2 Hamp; Dakota LeFlore, third, Class 4 Hamp; Chad McGirt, first, Class 1 Poland; Ashley Collins, second, Class 1 Poland; Otho Head, first, Breed Champion Poland; Otho Head, second, Class 2 Spot; James Roubidoux, first, Reserve Breed Champion Spot; Jackie Gusten, first, Class 1 York; Chris

Johnson, second, Class 3 York; Kayla Taylor, third, Class 3 York; Hudson Jumper, second, Class 4 York; Roy Hedge, first, Breed Champion York; Caylen Ahtone, first, Class 1 Cross; Jackie Gusten, second, Class 1 Cross; Billy Garrett, second, Class 4 Cross; Jason James, third, Class 6 Cross; Shannon LeFlore, third, Class 7 Cross.

Other Jones Academy students participating at show were Alicia Moore, Jacob Hall, Charly Clairmont, Erica Suarez, Samantha Oldman, Roberta Dixon, and Stacey Veal.

Jones Academy 4-H Club qualified 17 pigs for the premium sale. Jones Academy students would like to thank Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council for their continued support.



Brad Spears, Jones Academy Administrator; Josh Isaac and Brandon Spears, Choctaw Nation Agriculture, attend the Pittsburg County Jr. Livestock Show. Josh captured Grand Champion Breeding Gilt honors with his Breed Champion Duroc gilt.



Lindsey Grant, representing the Pittsburg County Cattleman Association, presented an appreciation plaque to Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council for their support of the Jr. Livestock Show in Pittsburg County.

An Interview with Mr. Tom Ashford

Submitted by Hazel B. Greene, Field Worker, 1937

Seventy-year-old Tom Ashford of Soper, Oklahoma was a brother of Jim Ashford, the Deputy U.S. Marshal who was killed by Shub Locke at Antlers, Oklahoma about 1891. According to Tom Ashford, Jim had driven Shub away from a church where Shub was disturbing public worship. Shub shot him the next day and he just lived a week.

The father of the Ashford boys was King Ashford and the mother was Elizabeth Griggs, a half-blood Choctaw Indian. Tom Ashford says that his father died when he was so young that he remembers very little about him, except that he died and was buried just over in Arkansas, close to where they lived (Cove, Arkansas). That was in the time of the Civil War and the Arkansas line was farther west than it is now. Later, they moved about one mile south of Antlers right where there is now a chicken ranch on the highway. His mother and her various husbands reared all the children there except Tom.

His grandfather, a white man from Mississippi, Lee Griggs, and Elizabeth Jane Griggs, a full-blood Choctaw, came over the "Trail of Tears". They were already married.

When Tom's father died, an uncle, T.L. Griggs "brought him up on the prairie and raised him in the saddle." He says that "at one time T.L. Griggs owned 15,000 head of white-face Hereford cattle. He had so many that they had to ride after them all the time and especially in the spring time when they would calve. Had to look after them more to keep their bags from spoiling. They were so wild we'd rope and tie them and milk them wherever we found them. Sometimes we'd have to throw them and tie them. Of course we would gentle and break a few of them for milk cows and always had plenty of milk and butter, though the majority of fullblood Indians did not care for milk and butter nor did they keep or milk cows."

Forty-five years ago, Tom Ashford married Mary Melvinia Owens, a white woman who was reared right around where Soper is now. [Daughter of Martha Matilda "Mattie" (Chapman) (Owens) Hart and stepdaughter of Eastman Hart.] She is sixty-three years old and they both read the newspapers without the aid of glasses. They say they lived up on the hill that overlooks Soper, on the south side of town, the first year they were married.

All over for miles, as far as they could see, the prairie grass was knee-high and each morning and evening, large herds of wild cattle,

deer and turkey would come out on the prairie to graze. Prairie chickens were so numerous that the noise they made early in the morning was almost deafening sometimes there were so many together.

"There was plenty of game, but the greedy white man ate it up and destroyed it together," says Mr. Ashford. "I never killed a deer in my life, but I have killed turkey, squirrels, and plenty of other game, and caught lots of fish. No matter how far it was, we had to go fishing every so often. We'd have the biggest fish fries. Several families would get together and go up on Boggy or some other stream, and take feed and camping outfit (if we wanted to stay all night), skillets and plenty of grease.

"Each man would dig ten bunches of 'devil's shoe string', and get him a block of wood and set it at the edge of the water, and go pounding that stuff with a little mallet, and swishing the weed in the water. Waders and swimmers would go out in the water and stir up the water, which by that time would be looking milky. The fish would get drunk on that juice and pretty soon the heads of fish would begin to pop up and we would shoot them with the bow and arrows.

"Every man, woman and child would have his or her face blacked with charcoal or something, not completely black but spotted. They said that the fish would not rise if their faces were not blacked."

Tom Ashford looks like a white man yet he talks and acts like an Indian, (he had blue eyes) and likes his old time Indian food. He says, "the woman not able to pound Tom Fuller like she used to do. So don't have much pushefa any more." He said, "Those were the days when they really enjoyed life. Go five miles in an ox wagon to church, take a camping outfit and stay until the meeting was over, if it was a week or two weeks.

"People took their religion more seriously than they do now. When we went to church, if it was close enough to go home to dinner, we took anywhere from one to a dozen home with us. But nowadays they seem to go just to show off their finery.

"We wore hickory shirts, ducking pants and the women wore calico dresses, if it suited us to do so, and home knit stockings. Now it seems like every fellow grabs his hat and tries to see how quick he can get away. Why, they wouldn't notice an old fellow like me in my old straw hat tied on with a shoe string."

Mr. Ashford says, "We had Indian crvs too! The Choctaws usu-

ally buried their dead at home, out close to the house, and sometimes in the yard or garden. After they had been buried for some time, a date was set for the funeral. I think they called it a 'cry' cause everybody cries, and when the name of the dead was mentioned, they sho' cried. An arbor was usually built at the home of the one buried there.

"If it was summertime, lots of food was prepared, especially meat (it was cooked in a big wash pot, usually); friends were invited to this funeral, and sometimes white people were invited. This was sometimes called by the Indians, 'Big Eat'. They would have services, then all would proceed to the grave of the departed, and kneel down and pray and cry, and everybody would cry. Then services again and returned to the grave to cry again. Then go home."

At the funeral "crys", one man was usually appointed to escort the white people to the table. He would get a stick and approach the guest and touch him with the stick and that signified that he was to accompany him to the table. Sometimes this was done silently, sometimes he would say "eat" in Choctaw. No two white people were seated side by side, and men and their wives were widely separated. And nobody went away hungry.

Sometimes, the pioneers would secure unbleached domestic, or flour sacks and dye them the desired color. Red Oak bark made a beautiful brown; coppers was used to "set" the color. Copperas made a pretty yellow. Another shade of brown was obtained by dying with dry walnut hulls, another by using green walnut hulls, still another by the boiled walnut bark; with coppers. It varied the tints.

"We had lots of ways of making lots of things that we needed. We made work hats for the men out of oat straw, and perfectly beautiful ones for women out of corn shucks. Nice enough to wear to church, for the younger ones. Older ones wore slat bonnets. If we were to tell all about how we lived we would be laughed at. But, we were raised that way and can't get away from it. We just wouldn't know how to wear fine clothes.

"We wish this country was like it used to be in the Territory days. If we wanted to go anywhere, we just 'lit' out in the direction we wanted to go and if there was a mudhole in the road, we simply went around it. If a tree had fallen across the road, we did the same thing. Nothing was fenced and plenty of grass for all the stock one wanted to raise."

Locally led conservation meetings are scheduled

Three conservation districts will be hosting locally led conservation meetings. They are the Talihina Conservation District, Latimer County Conservation District, Pushmataha County Conservation District and Haskell County Conservation District.

The Talihina Conservation District will have its meeting on May 2 at approximately 9 a.m. at the Talihina Conservation District office. This meeting will follow the Talihina Conservation District meeting and may start after 9 a.m.

The Latimer County Conservation District will have its meeting on May 6 at 7 p.m. at the Wilburton Federal Building.

The Pushmataha County Conservation District will have its meeting on May 6 at 7 p.m. at the Antlers Community Building.

The Haskell County Conservation District will have its meeting May 7 at 6 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Meeting Room, 1005 W. Main in Stigler.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings. The meetings are to identify natural resource concerns in each conservation district.

National Social Workers Day held at CNHCC

National Social Workers Day was recognized March 15 in the east cafeteria of the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center. This was the fourth annual session to network with other agencies which include the Social Security Administration, Department of Human Services, the technology center, Home Health Care, Medical Equipment/DME, the Diabetes Wellness Center, health education, social services, optometry, audiology and hospitalist/physician.

This event promotes and provides additional resources and services to enhance the quality of life for Choctaws and their family members after patients receive care at the hospital or one of the clinics.



Chief Greg Pyle expresses his appreciation to Lewis Smitherman, who hosted the National Social Workers event.

Riverbed continued from Page 1

Federal Government rather than penalize the individuals using the property along the riverbed.

The tribes' proposed legislation includes \$41 million in compensation of loss of tribal resources, buys 7,500 acres of land and the minerals, as well as makes provision for the government to take steps to clear the

title of the land for the current occupants.

The bill also contains a one time payment of about \$8 million for the continued production of electricity by powerheads located in the river.

Simply speaking, the tribes are willing to give up all rights, past, present and future, in the

7,500 acres of land created by the meandering of the Arkansas River in return for these payments.

The House Resources Committee is chaired by the Honorable J.D. Hayworth. The legislation supported by the tribes is H.R. 3534, sponsored by Representatives Brad Carson, Wes Watkins and Dale Kildee.

Council continued from Page 1

for children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances and their families. Chj Hullo Li Residential Treatment Center currently provides services for Native American women and their children.

A modification was approved for the Upward Bound Math and Science budget. There was a carryover of \$15,235.15 from the previous year that was incorporated into this summer's budget.

Councilmembers approved the donation of a 15-passenger bus to the First Assembly of God Church in Shadypoint. The bus is an older vehicle that was no longer used by the tribe.

An allocation was approved to assist with the 2002 Wheelock Spring Festival. Grants were also approved by the Council to

assist with the American Indian Jr. Golf Camp and the American Legion Baseball Team. A budget was approved for the Gaming Commission of the Choctaw Nation and Paula Penz was named as Gaming Commissioner.

Authorization was given to submit application for a continuation grant for the Vocational Rehabilitation Service Projects, American Indians with Disabilities. According to the legislation passed by the Council, Oklahoma has the highest American Indian population in the United States, of which 7,769 living within the ten and a half counties of the Choctaw Nation are persons with disabilities. More than 2,409 of these people are severely disabled.

A Projects With Industry (PWI) grant proposal was approved. The purpose of PWI is to create and expand job and career opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the competitive labor market. This is done by engaging the talent and leadership of private industry as partners in the rehabilitation process. PWI projects identify competitive job and career opportunities and the skills needed to perform those jobs, creates practical settings for job readiness and training programs, and provides job placement and career advancement services.

Farming and grazing leases were approved in Latimer and Jefferson Counties.

The next regular session is scheduled for May 11th at Tushka Homma.

Inter-Tribal continued from Page 1

Act be increased from the \$5 million presently allocated to \$10 million to meet the needs of the tribes' increasing elderly population.

• Endorsing the continuation of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission as a stand alone agency and the continued funding of the OIAC. The Inter-Tribal

Council opposes any consideration of reducing, relocating, dissolving or abolishing the OIAC which serves as a single point-of-contact between the state and other agencies and the 38 federally recognized tribes who live in Oklahoma.

• Endorsing the opposition of a proposed change in the way

NAHASDA distributes funds to individual tribes.

• Opposing the transfer of Head Start Programs from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education. The proposed change could cause tribal Head Start Programs to lose their freedom to include cultural education in their curriculum.

Randy Bailey

Randy Bailey, 44, of Grant, Oklahoma passed away Thursday, March 28, 2002 in Hugo, Oklahoma. He was born February 26, 1958 in Hugo to William H. and Elsie Marie (Foster) Bailey.

Randy lived in Grant all his life and was a member of the Grant Baptist Church. He went to school in Grant all of his life and graduated from Grant High School in 1976 and the Kiamichi Area Career Technical Center of Hugo. Randy received his Associate of Science and a Master's of Science in Agriculture from East Texas A&M University where he also pursued doctoral studies.

Upon graduation from East Texas A&M in Commerce, Texas, he was employed as a soil conservation technician for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Randy was then employed by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as a Director of Land Operations and currently held the position of Director of Agriculture and Land Operations for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Randy was a strong supporter of the area youth, especially in the area of agriculture. He was also very heavily involved with the National Inter-Tribal Agriculture Council and held several offices with the national association.

Randy was a very proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and loved the tribe very much. He devoted his life to helping other people in any way that he could.

He was preceded in death by his father, William H. Bailey, and his grandmother, Elsie G. Rolan.

Survivors include his mother, Marie Bailey of Grant; brothers, Billy Bailey of Childress, Texas and Choctaw Nation Assistant Chief Mike Bailey of Durant, Oklahoma.

He will truly be missed by all that loved and knew him.



Billy D. Parrish

Billy D. Parrish, 73, of Frederick, Oklahoma passed away Saturday, March 2, 2002 at his home. He was born on May 2, 1928 in Bennington, Oklahoma to James Otis and Alta W. Thorpe Parrish.

He graduated from Bokchito High School in 1946. He then graduated from Southeastern State College in 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and later with his Master's Degree. After that he received his Administrative Certificate from East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas.

On May 23, 1950 he was united in marriage to Galena Cunningham in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

He had been associated with schools as a teacher, coach and administrator. He spent 37 years as an educator in Oklahoma at Coalgate, Tupelo, Pontotoc, Berryhill, Bennington, Olney and Frederick before retiring in 1986. As he had followed in his father's footsteps, so did his four sons who are all educators in the state of Oklahoma. He was of the Baptist faith.

His parents and two brothers, Wendell and Wayne Parrish, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife of the home; four sons and daughters-in-law, Danny and Jane Parrish of Weleetka, Oklahoma, Jim and Pam Parrish of Calera, Oklahoma, Rick and Treva Parrish of Tuttle, Oklahoma and Larry and Darla Parrish of Hobart, Oklahoma; two brothers, James Parrish of Albuquerque, New Mexico and David Parrish of Blue, Oklahoma; a sister, Mary Gail Buck of Liberal, Kansas; eleven grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Geryal "Pat" Patterson

Geryal "Pat" Patterson, 86, of Spokane, Washington passed away Sunday, February 24, 2002 at his home. He was born January 15, 1916 in Stratford, Oklahoma to Ruby Dell Anderson Patterson and Luke Koachubby Patterson.

When he was a young boy, he and his family moved to California. At 16, he learned to play the guitar and for many years thereafter he sang and played in the style of the Sons of the Pioneers whom he had the privilege to play with on occasion. His love of music and his great talent continue to pass from generation to generation and his musical legacy will live on forever.

During the Great Depression, he traveled throughout the west, from town to town, refurbishing mattresses. He and his coworkers, who were also musicians, worked during the day and performed for the townspeople at night.

In 1943, Pat married his sweetheart, Doris Druscilla Gray, and soon after had to leave his new bride to serve his country during World War II. He was a merchant marine who carried supplies through treacherous waters to our troops and countrymen.

After the war, Pat worked as a pipefitter for 50 years, of which he was very proud.

He was a man of great faith who served the Lord. His spiritual guidance and quiet strength were a source of comfort to all who knew him.

In 2001, he and his wife moved to Spokane to be near their daughters.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Harold Joe Patterson, and two children, Deryal and David.

Survivors include his wife; four daughters, Susan Bauguss, Holly Blanco, Andrea Flanigan and Penny Lyon; two sons, Mark and Lon Patterson; brother, Vernon Rex Patterson; 18 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

He will be missed by many relatives and a host of friends.

Ethel Marietta Hamill

Ethel Marietta Hamill, 75, passed away Monday, March 11, 2002 in Hugo, Oklahoma. She was born September 11, 1926 in Speer, Oklahoma to Simon Thompson and Francis (Pisachubbe) Thompson.

She had lived most of her life in Choctaw County, receiving her education in Speer. Ethel married Marion S. Hamill on December 18, 1948 in Paris, Texas.

A devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Ethel spent her life taking care of her husband, children, and grandchildren, all of whom she loved and adored.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Dorothy and Dorchee Thompson and Norma Homer; a brother, Leonard Thompson, and a son, Clifford Alan Hamill, who passed away in July of 1971.

Survivors include her husband; five children and their spouses, Robert "Bobby" and Beverly Hamill of Garland, Texas, Carolyn and Wayne Sims of Shawnee, Oklahoma, Floyd L. "Sonny" and Debbie Hamill of Hugo, Oklahoma, Anita Parker Cox of Grant and Marlon S. "Jr." Hamill of Oklahoma City; eleven grandchildren, Travis Thompson, James Hamill, Amy Law, Alan Hamill, Shawnita Sterett, Hashi Hamill, Rebekah Simpson, Derrick Parker, Olen Cox, Wes Sims and Eric Sims; six great-grandchildren, Patricia Hamill, Payton Hamill, Ryan Law, Cody Law, Dalton Law and Braydon Law; two brothers, William Thompson, Jr. of Hugo and Bernie Thompson of Grant; one sister, Edith Jones of Antlers, and a host of foster children, nieces, nephews and very special friends.

Cleora Alice Clifton

Cleora Alice Clifton, 67, passed away Tuesday, January 22, 2002 in Hugo, Oklahoma. She was born September 19, 1934 in Frogville, Oklahoma, the daughter of John and Tommie (Oakes) Welborn.

She had lived in the area all her life and worked as a nurse's aid at Golden Age Home for several years. She married Harvey Dean Morris in 1948 and he preceded her in death on December 10, 1958. She married Haskell Clifton on September 3, 1960 in Hugo. She was a charter member of the Southside Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband; a daughter and son-in-law, Johnnie Jean and Lowell "Butch" Logan of Hugo; three sons and a daughter-in-law, Ronnie Dean and Debbie Morris and Paul Wayne Morris, all of Hugo, and Mark Keith Morris of Paris, Texas; brother, John L. Welborn, Jr. of Tulsa, Oklahoma; sister, Tommy Jean Kerr of Waco, Texas; six grandchildren, Steven Ray Logan of Post Falls, Idaho, Alice Renae Key, Christine De-An Logan, Justin Dean Morris, Shannette K-Ann Bailey, all of Hugo, and Erica Morris of Paris, Texas; 11 great-grandchildren, Ashlyn and Candice Logan, Chandler Davidson, Zori Chubbee, Harlee and Baylee Key, Talyann and Teryn Bailey, all of Hugo, Britney Logan of Oklahoma City, and Morgan Logan and Megan Patterson of Post Falls.

William E. "Bill" Folsom

William E. "Bill" Folsom, 77, passed away Tuesday, February 26, 2002 in Dallas, Texas. He was born March 4, 1924 in Ringling, Oklahoma.

Mr. Folsom attended the University of Oklahoma in Norman on a football scholarship. He completed his education at Southeastern State College in Durant, majoring in government, history and journalism. He also attended the U.S. Naval School of Journalism in Great Lakes, Illinois and was a graduate of Radio Arts Institute in Louisville, Kentucky.

He was a newspaper editor, publisher editor/part owner of daily newspapers in Texas and Oklahoma; Associated Press editor and writer in Oklahoma City; real estate broker, developer and investor; public relation and advertising agency owner in Texas and Oklahoma; reporter/feature writer/photographer for the Daily Jacksonville News Views, Jacksonville, North Carolina; reporter/writer/photographer of the McAlester, Okla., Daily News Capital and later became editor of the News Capital after working for AP. He was also part owner and founder of the McAlester, Okla., Daily Democrat, turning it into the largest daily in Southeastern Oklahoma, complete with a full-color weekly magazine and color comics.

William was a broker/owner of Folsom Real Estate in Gun Barrel City, Texas. He served as a U.S. Marine Corps gunnery sergeant, first sergeant and combat correspondent in the South Pacific in the Hawaiian Islands, Eniwetok, Guam, and in the assault and capture of Iwo Jima, being awarded presidential and naval citations. He witnessed the two raisings of the American flag at Mt. Surbiachio on Iwo Jima. He later served with occupation forces in Japan, landing at the Sasebo, Japan, naval base and participated in inspection trips to Nagasaki, the second target of an atomic bomb dropped in Japan. He returned to the Marine Corps during the Korean War and served with the recruiting service as public information officer at Louisville, Kentucky and later in charge of the Camp Lejeune, North Carolina public information office and editor of the Weekly Camp Lejeune Globe.

He was a Thirty-Second Degree Mason; Consistory, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, York Rite Mason, Indian Chapter No. 1, Royal Arch Masons, Union Council No. 3, C.M. and McAlester Commandery, No. 6 Knights Templar, United Commercial Travelers, Red Red Rose, Teachers Organization of Oklahoma, all degrees, Masonic Blue Lodge, Shriner, former State Commander Amvets.

Through the years, he was a member of American Legion, Veteran of Foreign Wars, Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Elks, Eagles and Navy League. He was appointed Admiral in the Texas Navy by Governor John Conley and Honorary Colonel on staff of Governor Raymond Gary to the Oklahoma Semi-Centennial Commission.

He was preceded in death by a son, Brian Lee Folsom.

Survivors include his wife of 41 years, Colleen Folsom; sons, Michael James Cross and wife, Michaeline, Barry Duncan Folsom and wife, Jennifer, and William Stanton Folsom and wife, Lucy; grandsons, Colin Folsom and Michael Stephen Cross; granddaughters, Summer Folsom and Cristina Folsom; one great-granddaughter; a sister, Ella Mae Hammons; brothers, Jerry and Christopher Folsom; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Mary B. Berg

Mary B. Berg, 78, of Tulsa, Oklahoma passed away Friday, March 8, 2002. She was born on January 7, 1924 in Durant, Oklahoma. She moved to Tulsa in 1934.

She attended grade school and junior high school in Tulsa and was a 1942 graduate of Tulsa Central. She attended Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University) in Stillwater from 1942-43. She also attended briefly at the University of Tulsa.

She was a clerical worker at Scrivner-Stevens for seven years. She married Alva Lee Berg of Collinsville, Oklahoma on December 22, 1950. She was active with the American Legion Post 1 ladies auxiliary as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 577 ladies auxiliary. She was past Cobane President of 185 40/8th. She was also a member of the Independent Order of Foresters.

Survivors include her husband, Lee, and sons, James S. and Walter L. Berg of Tulsa.

Margaret Josephine Boland

Margaret Josephine Boland, 94, passed away in a Caddo Nursing Home on Saturday, March 16, 2002 after an extended illness. She was born August 22, 1907 in Caddo, Indian Territory, the daughter of Attorney John Louis Boland and Elizabeth (Turnbull) Boland, an original enrollee with the Choctaw Nation.

She graduated from Caddo Public Schools, obtained a teaching degree from Southeastern State Teacher's College in Durant, Oklahoma and a Master's Degree in Education from Austin College in Sherman, Texas. She taught the third grade in Caddo Public Schools for over 40 years. She taught another five years in Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

She came from a family of teachers and educators. Generations of families fondly remember third grade and Miss Boland. She was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Caddo and St. Williams Roman Catholic Church in Durant. She was a member of the Alter Society, the Caddo Civic Club, the Caddo Education Foundation and a number of teaching sororities and societies. She was the caregiver and homemaker for her entire family while they lived at home. Her cooking skills, especially her homemade rolls and fry bread, will be missed by all.

Her parents, a sister, Zulieka Boland Pace, and a brother, Jack Boland, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her sister, Mary Adeline Boland Power of Caddo; niece, Mary Jo Summerville of Irving, Texas; nephews, Jim Power of Lawrence, Kansas, Bill Power of Albuquerque, New Mexico and John Power of Chicago, Illinois; grandnieces, Bobbie Peterson of Pottsboro, Texas, Monique Wooten of London, Kentucky, Corina and Celeste Power of Albuquerque; great-grandnephew, Justin LeFevre, and great-grandnieces, Brittany LeFevre and Taylor Peterson.

Joseph Ben Carnes

Joseph Ben Carnes, 70, of Caddo, Oklahoma passed away Saturday, March 2, 2002. He was born Saturday, May 23, 1931 in Sunkist, Oklahoma.

Mr. Carnes was a member of the Methodist faith. He was a general laborer. He loved to hunt, fish, be outdoors and spend time with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Simpson and Dora (Sonny) Carnes; a sister, Lucy Wade; brother, Lewis Carnes, and grandchildren, David, Joey and Amber.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, J.B. and Lachelle Carnes of Caddo; daughters and son-in-law, Ramona and Carl Swilling of Caddo, Sheila Carnes of Sherman, Texas and Jennifer Carnes of Durant, Oklahoma; stepsons, Gerald Ludlow and his wife, Kelli, of Bridgeport, Texas, Hubert "Sonny" Homer and wife, Mary, and Eddie Homer, all of Durant; stepdaughter, Linda Hornsby of Cartwright, Oklahoma; sister, Dorothy Hamel and her husband, Harry, of Nekoosa, Wisconsin; 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Thomas W. Willie, Jr.

Thomas W. Willie, Jr. of San Antonio, Texas passed away Monday, February 25, 2002 in San Antonio. He was born in 1920 at Idabel, Oklahoma to Thomas W. Willie, Sr. and Myrtha Reed Willie.

Mr. Willie spent 30 years in the U.S. Army and was a retired master sergeant. He served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. After serving in the Far East during the wars, he went to Fort Belvoir, Virginia where he became an engineer, then returned to the Far East and spent the next year surveying islands and making maps of them. He then spent two tours in Germany teaching road construction drafting and then returned to Fort Belvoir.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers, Raymond and Billie.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Ingeborg Willie of San Antonio; a daughter, Karin Karl of Germany; sisters, Bernice Williams of Idabel and Fay Baxter of Edmond; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



James R. Sewell

James R. Sewell, 73, passed away Thursday, February 28, 2002. He was born May 21, 1928 in Blanchard, Oklahoma. He retired in 1966 from the U.S. Air Force while stationed at an Air Force base in Amarillo, Texas. During his military career, he served in various assignments, including the Korean War.

While serving his country, he received numerous commendations and awards. He moved to Amarillo in 1964. On November 13, 1949, he married Lila Irene Allen in Fort Worth. He was a member of the Choctaw Nation, from which he received recognition. He was a Baptist. During the 1970s and early '80s, he was head of security at St. Anthony's Hospital on Polk Street. He was also head of Allstate Security. He was very active in veteran's affairs and assisted many veterans in obtaining benefits. In addition, he served as a volunteer at St. Anthony's Hospital.

Two sons, Lonnie Sewell and Michael Sewell, and a grandson, Christopher Sewell, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife; three sons, Edward Sewell of Shawnee; Carlos Sewell of Byers, Oklahoma and Richard Sewell of Amarillo; three daughters, Yvonnede Curtis of Liberty and Michelle Stickrod and Carla McDaniel, both of Amarillo; five sisters, Nora Campbell of Ventura, California, Bessie King of Green Acres, Washington, Wand Billings of Eufaula, Oklahoma, Inez Seifert of New Castle, Oklahoma and Marie Moriarty of Castro Valley, California; 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

Urias "Snooks" Humphreys

Urias "Snooks" Humphreys, 87, of Whitesboro, Oklahoma passed away Friday, March 15, 2002 at his home. He was born April 11, 1914 in Howe, Oklahoma to Steve Humphreys and Willie Smith Humphreys.

He married Audrey Ferguson on September 7, 1935 in Talihina, Oklahoma. He was a 43-year member and two-time Past Master of the Talihina Masonic Lodge and was named as Mr. Mason in 2000. He was a member of the Two Mile Church of Christ and had lived in the Whitesboro area for the past 50 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Hazel Dukes; grandsons, Kelly Peters and Jonathan Luke Humphreys, and a great-granddaughter, Jessica Tucker.

Survivors include his wife; four daughters and sons-in-law, June and Jim Young and Susan and Larry Fields, all of Buffalo Valley, Oklahoma, Johnny and Charles DeWeese of Antlers, Oklahoma, and Eileen and Cecil Beasley of McAlester, Oklahoma; three sons, Ed Humphreys of Colbert, Oklahoma and Jim Humphreys and Phillip Humphreys, both of Whitesboro; 20 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, one great-great-granddaughter, a sister, Lena Thirkill of Talihina, Oklahoma; brother-in-law, Allen Dukes of Talihina; a special niece, Woodie Yates of Arkoma, Oklahoma and a special nephew, Terry Wayne Battiest of Colorado, as well as a host of other family and friends.

Michael Dennis Hudson

Longtime Ponca City, Oklahoma resident Michael Dennis Hudson, 48, passed away Sunday, March 17, 2002 in the Via Christi Regional Medical Center. A full-blood Choctaw, he was born October 26, 1953 in Talihina, Oklahoma to Wesley James Hudson, Sr. and Edna Wilson Hudson.

Michael grew up in Eagletown and graduated from high school in 1971. He attended Southeastern College, Okmulgee Tech and Northern Oklahoma College. He and the former Rae Mae Sissons were married December 25, 1975 in Idabel, Oklahoma. They made their home in Eagletown.

Mike was a direct descendant of Chief George Hudson and was proud of his heritage and lineage. He was a member of the Mountain Fork Presbyterian Church of Eagletown and of the Choctaw Nation. He enjoyed watching OU Sooners football and basketball. All his life he was a devout OU fan. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing and he took much enjoyment in his kids and grandkids.

His father and his cousin/best friend, Larry Cole, preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife; daughter, Christie Michelle Askew and husband, Edmond, of Ponca City; two sons, Larry James Hudson and wife, Ruth, of Tonkawa, Oklahoma and Eddy Rhea Hudson and fiancée, Misty Dick, of Ponca City; one stepson, Timothy Owen Sissons of Ponca City; his mother, Edna Wilson Hudson of Talihina; a sister, Theda Jefferson of Eagletown; two brothers, Gene Wilson and Wesley James Hudson, Jr., both of Eagletown; one granddaughter, Caitlyn Rose Askew; one step-granddaughter, Brittany Deann Ellis; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends.