



BISHINIK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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April 2003 Issue

19th Annual Senior Citizen Day is May 21

The Choctaw Nation's 19th Annual Senior Citizen Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21 at the Choctaw Gaming Center in Durant.

The theme for this year's event is "What We Do Makes a Difference." Activities begin at 10 a.m.

The day's fun will include a free lunch, singing, door prizes, hat contest and name tag contest.

Transportation from inside tribal boundaries is available. For more information, please call your local field office or Choctaw Nation at 580-924-8280, ext. 2202.

Homebuyer Education Workshop

Do you dream of owning your own home? The Choctaw Nation Home Finance Department offers a variety of programs to help you become a homeowner.

Free workshops and homebuyer counseling services provide the information you will need to help you become a homeowner.

These services are available to any Native American, at all income levels.

Issues covered include budgeting, insurance, realtors, lending process and credit issues.

Classes will be held in the following locations:

APRIL

Atoka	Tuesday, April 15
Purcell	Thursday, April 17
Wilburton	Tuesday, April 22
Dallas	Tuesday, April 29

MAY

Poteau	Thursday, May 1
Durant	Tuesday, May 6
Hugo	Wednesday, May 7

To register for a class or get more information, please call Nancy Kirby at the Choctaw Housing Authority, 1-800-235-3087, ext. 301.

Princess Pageant scheduled

DISTRICT 9

The District 9 Princess Pageant will be 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 30 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.

Health clinic to be built in Stigler

Construction is scheduled to begin in early summer on a new Choctaw Nation Health Clinic in Stigler. The tribe has received a federal grant of \$1,045,000 to be used in construction of the facility which is to be located east of Stigler on Hwy. 9 near the Choctaw Nation Head Start and Day Care.

Heritage Day, Walk are May 17



Choctaw Nation Capitol Building, circa 1938

Amos is new Councilperson

Chief Gregory E. Pyle has appointed Broken Bow resident Mike Amos to serve as the District 2 Tribal Councilperson. Mike will fulfill the unexpired term in District 2 upon the resignation of Billy Paul Baker.

Mike has strong family ties to McCurtain County. Born to Bill and Louise Amos, Mike resides in Broken Bow with his wife and children. Both Mike and his wife, Vicky, hold important jobs in their church, Myrtlewood Baptist, which is west of Broken Bow. He is the church treasurer and van driver and she teaches the nursery and kindergarten age children.

"Serving as a Tribal Councilperson is something I am tremendously excited about," said Mike.

Mike has worked for the Choctaw people for several years, and his wife has worked with McCurtain County Choctaws for the past 18 years in both the health and social service fields.

Mike said he is proud of the programs offered by the Choctaw Nation in the past few years, and feels



Mike Amos repeats the oath of office given by Council Speaker Kenny Bryant.

it is essential to continue these services and to also continually improve upon the services. "The tribe has been able to earn the money to provide college scholarships to Choctaws and I feel that now we need to work on encouraging more students to go to college."

When asked about health care, Mike said that the existing hospital and tribal clinics are great, but he wants everyone to know that he is committed to bringing a better facility to the McCurtain County area. "The Choctaw Nation has a huge number of tribal

See AMOS on Page 5

The Annual Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk and Heritage Day will be held Saturday, May 17 at the Choctaw Nation Capitol, Tushka Homma. This is the first year that the Walk and Heritage Day are combined, and the day's schedule is full of historical demonstrations and contests.

The Walk will begin at the intersection of Hwy 2 and Nanih Waiya Road that leads into Tushka Homma. After the two-mile trek, a free lunch featuring Indian Tacos will be served. Plans for the afternoon include a series of events that highlight the changing culture of the Choctaw Nation from 1800 to Statehood. The Best Dressed Choctaw contest will offer prizes for categories of Man, Woman and Child. According to coordinator Olin Williams, the clothing simply has to reflect the era from 1800 to 1907. "They do not have to wear traditional Choctaw clothing, just clothing that is from that period of time," said Williams.

Other competitions for the day are a Tough Choctaw Contest, a Frybread Contest and a Stickball Accuracy Contest.

The Frybread Contest is open to Choctaw Tribal Members. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places.

All entrants in the Frybread Contest must be prepared to cook by 1 p.m. Saturday, May 17. Space for cooking is available on the west side of the Arts and Crafts booth area. Tables will be available and electricity is provided at each stall. Bring all your needed equipment to the Arts and Crafts stall area. Bread must be prepared for judging at a time specified when contestants have completed entry forms. Contestants will not be asked to provide their recipe unless they want to. Frybread will be judged on taste, texture, and appearance.

For more information on the Frybread Contest, please call Beverly Nelson at 1-800-522-6170 or 924-8280, ext. 2216.

Demonstrations in basketweaving, beadwork, archery and blowgun are planned for the event, and a history booth will be set up to share information about the Choctaw tribe.

Several activities are planned during the day for children ten years old and younger, including a sack race, stickhorse race, turtle race and a best-dressed turtle contest.



Girls dormitory to be expanded

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met March 8 in Regular Session to pass a Council Bill allocating funding to expand the girls dormitory at Jones Academy. Cost of the expansion will be shared through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Facilities Management Construction Center and revenues from the Choctaw gaming operations.

The Council also approved the establishment of the Choctaw Archiving Enterprise to acquire and manage Federal Procurement Contracts and to undertake other commercial contracts.

Councilmembers agreed to improve gaming facilities at Durant, Pocola and Grant.

Funding was approved for the Emergency Health and Safety Hazard Assistance and also for the matching funds for the Food Distribution Program. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma must provide a match of 25% to the USDA's 75% of Food Distribution funding.

Grant funds were accepted for the Child Care and Development Fund in the amount of \$3,743,052.

The next Regular Session of the Choctaw Nation is scheduled for April 12, 2003.



District 4 Councilperson Delton Cox, Chief Gregory Pyle, and Wister IEC members Kelly Beason, coordinator, and Mary Gibson.



Crowder IEC coordinator Jennifer Smith, Chief Gregory Pyle, IEC members Tonja Garrett and Dena Cantrell, and District 12 Councilperson James Frazier.

Banquet honors outstanding JOM programs

The most outstanding JOM programs in the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation, Quinton, Wister and Crowder schools, were recognized during the annual Oklahoma Johnson O'Malley Conference Banquet held Wednesday, March 5 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The banquet was the highlight of a four-day conference packed with keynote speakers and workshops aimed at sharing innovative ideas and information.

Awards were presented to parent-teacher representatives from each school district. Each group was chosen for the exemplary way it provides 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.

"This year's theme, 'United in Mind, Heart and Nations,' is appropriate in this unsettled time. It carries a special poignancy as so many of our young men and

See JOM on Page 5



Peggy Miller, Rep. Ray Miller, Quinton Superintendent Sherri Prentice, IEC Chairperson DiAnn Gibson, Chief Gregory Pyle, District 6 Councilperson Randle Durant, JOM Coordinator Judy Needham, Elementary Principal Linda Ballard and District 5 Councilperson Charlotte Jackson.



Letters

Searching for 1953 Sequoyah grads

Dear Editor,

I am searching for Emma Blackwood, Rudolph Colbert, Rena Hicks, Odetha Noah, David Lee Simon and Rose Ethel Whitekiller who graduated from Sequoyah Vocational School in 1953.

The reunion will be held May 2, 3 and 4 on the Sequoyah campus. Please contact Bernice (Bea Sweet) Robertson, 734 Snowden, Richardson, TX 75080; phone 972-470-9327, or e-mail beasweet5@msn.com. Thank you so much.

San Diego meeting very informative

Dear Chief Pyle,

We would like to thank you and your staff for coming to San Diego, California in February. What an informative meeting. We were so happy to learn more about our tribe. You and your staff were so nice to all of us. We could tell that you really care about your people. Thank you so much for the packet we just received with so much information about the Choctaws. We look forward to some day coming back to Oklahoma to the festival and maybe finding more information regarding our ancestors.

Our grandmother, Josephine Mathis Plaster, was full-blood Choctaw. We are trying to find as much about our early family as we can. Our great-great-grandfather was Dr. Turner Turnbull, Sr. We believe he was born in 1816. If anyone has any information regarding the Turner Turnbulls we would like to hear from you. Thank you for any help you can give us.

**Barbara and George Carnes
Sandy Van Der Linden
34711 Lyn Avenue
Hemet, CA 92545
e-mail: SandyVDL@aol.com**

Seeking relatives for reunion

Dear Editor,

I am seeking relatives of Bettie Martin and Jessie Lewis, original Choctaw enrollees. Tentative plans are being made for a family reunion, possibly the second weekend of May this year. Bettie Martin was from Cartridge, Mississippi and settled in Atoka County, Oklahoma area. Jessie Lewis was from Meridian, Mississippi and settled in Pittsburgh County, Oklahoma. They were parents of Sina and Nannie Lewis of Atoka, Oklahoma. All relatives are urged to attend and bring any old photographs or memorabilia.

For information, please contact Marsha Scott, Rt. 2 Box 2082, Atoka, OK 74525, 580-889-2274; e-mail reader@atoka.net

Bennington student sends thanks

Dear Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey and Councilman Dosh,

Thank you for purchasing the premium on my Cross steer and Hamp pig at the 2003 Bryan County Premium Sale. The Choctaw Nation has always supported me in all areas whether it be showing animals or playing ball.

**Ashton Thompson
Bennington 4-H**

Color Guard is impressive

Dear Choctaw Nation Color Guard,

Once again, your presentation of colors and the 21-gun salute were most impressive at our third annual AT6 Memorial Service. We appreciate your involvement each year and the effort and time it costs each of you.

**Beth Lawless and students
Rattan, Oklahoma**

Assistance is appreciated

Dear Editor,

I want to say thank you so much to the CHRs, to Berdie and Debbie, and to LIHEAP Energy Assistance, Charlene, and Chief Greg Pyle for helping meet my needs while I was in the hospital. Thanks to Fredia Wall, my son, James Reynolds, and Stacy Prater and kids for being there for me. Thank you.

Anna Kennemer

Searching for information

Dear Editor,

I am searching for information on Choctaw songs and Black American/Choctaws in Texas. I am a member of the Red Hawk American Indian Center. I would appreciate it if anyone with any information would contact me at 2123 Tibbetts Wick Rd., Girard, OH 44420. Yakoke!

Roland Alexander

FFA member appreciates support

Dear Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey and Councilman Dosh,

Thank you for purchasing the premium on my Hamp pig and Duroc pig at the 2003 Bryan County Premium Sale. I appreciate all the support the Choctaw Nation has given me through the years.

**Cody Dosh
Bennington FFA**

<i>Gregory E. Pyle</i> <i>Chief</i>	<i>Mike Bailey</i> <i>Assistant Chief</i>
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Working with firefighters a privilege

Dear Chief Pyle,

On behalf of the local, state and federal agencies called upon to manage the response to the tragic loss of Space Shuttle Columbia we extend our deepest appreciation to the Choctaw Nation for sending firefighters to search for Shuttle debris and remains of the lost astronauts.

The firefighters provided an invaluable service in helping to bring comfort to the families and friends of the seven astronauts who lost their lives in this national catastrophe. Their work will also prove vital to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration who is charged with discovering the root cause of this tragedy and ensuring that no other families will ever have to endure such a loss again.

You can take pride in knowing that all seven of our astronauts were sent home to their families. It has been our distinct privilege to have worked with your firefighters and the thousands of others who gathered in Sabine County, Texas to bring about this success.

**Tom Maddox, Sheriff, Sabine County
Billy “Ted” Smith, Director, Jasper/Newton/Sabine
Emergency Management Agency
Mark Ruggerio, Commander, Southern Area Incident
Management Team**

Tribe supportive of higher education

Dear Editor,

I returned to college in the Fall of 2000 after a 19-year hiatus from school. I was 47 years old on February 17 of this year. I am very grateful to the Choctaw Nation and all of our tribal leaders and members for the financial support they have given me.

I have always received excellent assistance from the folks at the Nation’s Office of Higher Education. The Nation is also now assisting my daughter, Summer Calais Churchill, who is now in her second semester at the University of Texas. She is planning to go to law school. My youngest daughter, Meaghan Nicole Churchill, will also be attending college with the Nation’s assistance beginning in the Fall of 2004 and she plans to become a teacher.

I would like to encourage anyone of you seeking to better themselves through higher education to get back into school. Our tribe is very supportive and well positioned to assist you. My children and I pledge not to fail you and compromise the confidence that you as our people have placed in us financially. Your prayers for our success will be greatly appreciated.

**Jeffrey D. Churchill
Texas A&M Corpus Christi**

Staff members visit University of Arkansas

Dear Chief Pyle,

We were very pleased that Mr. Billy Bailey and Ms. Jodie Dunn of your staff were able to join us for a series of meetings concerning the various opportunities we have before us. We spent part of our day getting Mr. Bailey’s wise counsel concerning issues that might be useful in an agricultural credit training session we are planning with him. The Division of Agriculture is already thinking of ways in which Choctaw Nation young people can become engaged in future agricultural careers, hopefully choosing the University of Arkansas to start them on that path!

Thank you for sending Mr. Bailey and Ms. Dunn for a visit. We look forward to continuing our work with you and your staff.

**Jennie Popp, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Janie Simms Hipp, JD, LLM, Natural Resource Public
Policy Specialist**

Received assistance with septic, water

Dear Chief Pyle,

Recently the Choctaw Nation provided the manpower for installing the septic system and water lines for our new home. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supplying these services for us. We sincerely appreciate it.

I would also like to commend the three workers who accomplished this work for us. Mr. Harlan Ludlow, Mr. Hoss Ward and Mr. David Bandy came early and worked until dark every day in order to complete these jobs in a timely and expeditious manner. My husband and I felt that we could trust their work; they were that conscientious.

Again, thank you for your assistance and willingness to advance the work which is necessary to completing our home.

Judy Storey Ogle

Researching Moore family

Dear Editor,

I am trying to find out if anyone knows who my great-great-great-grandfather was. He was married to a Sophia Folsom. Their son was Joseph Moore, born in 1933. Joseph was married to Mary E. Rider. Their children were Thomas David, Jessie L., Sophia E., William H., Jacob O., Lou, Becky, Joseph Robert, and John Henry.

If anyone who knows who Joseph’s father was, I would be forever grateful. Please contact me at: Jennifer Buckmaster, Rt. 1 Box 288M, Macomb, OK 74852; 405-333-2442.

Error concerning last execution

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the story in the March issue concerning original enrollee Willie Lee Pusley.

Unfortunately, the story contains an error regarding the last execution under Choctaw tribal law. The execution in 1894 was not the last.

The last execution under tribal law was carried out at the Alikchi court ground July 13, 1899. This event is documented in my article which appeared in volume 76 of the Chronicles of Oklahoma, pages 38-47.

A previous article in the Chronicles, volume 73, pages 386-403, made the same claim regarding the 1894 execution but the authors have since acknowledged their error.

**Louis Coleman
McCurtain County Historical Society
Idabel, Oklahoma**

Gathering of Nations Tour

April 24, 2003 • Albuquerque, New Mexico

Reservations are now being accepted for our fourth trip to the World’s Largest Pow Wow in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The four-day trip will be sure to be a memorable one.

The tour involves transportation to the Pow Wow, historic and traditional tourist sites and is great for sightseeing. The bus will leave from Hugo, Oklahoma at 3 a.m. on Thursday, April 24 and return late in the evening on Sunday, April 27.

Highlights include the Miss Indian World Pageant, Pow Wow contest and a visit to Old Town in Sante Fe.

For questions or details, phone 580-234-1770 or 580-317-3918. Fare includes transportation and one night at the Pow Wow.

Studying family’s ancestry

Dear Editor,

I am seeking any information I can get on my family’s ancestry. I have not been able to find much. If there is anyone out there that can help me, please contact me.

My grandparents’ names were (father’s side) Blain Allen Morris, born May 14, 1902 in New English, Iowa and Ethel Morris Lowry or Lowrey, born on August 18, 1904 in Oklahoma; (mother’s side) Edward A. Moss, born May 25, 1903 in Arkansas, and Velma Moss, not sure of maiden name, born in 1905 in Oklahoma. Both she and my mother told me that we were related to the McCoy family, that was David McCoy of the 1800s. I have no record of that.

My mother’s name was Lucille Morris Moss, born January 22, 1929 in Oklahoma. She was raised there until she was in her teens. She has six brothers and a sister, all still living. My father was born on June 28, 1929 in Denver, Colorado. He had three brothers, all dead now. His name was Richard Lee Morris.

If there is anyone out there who can help me find more information on my family, please contact me. Thank you.

**Bruce W. Morris B-95129
San Quentin State Prison
San Quentin, CA 94974
1-EB-101**

Tribe provides bus for trip to rally

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Members of the Quinton School district in Pittsburg County would like to offer a very sincere “Thank You” to the Choctaw Nation for providing a bus for us on Wednesday, February 12 to Oklahoma City.

Quinton’s administrators, faculty and support employees attended the “Save Our Schools” Rally at the Capitol. While there, each staff member visited with Legislators, asking for financial help for school children in Oklahoma.

Thank you again, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, for making our trip to the city very comfortable for us.

**Sherri Prentice, Superintendent
and all members of our staff**

Water piped to homes

Dear Editor,

On behalf of John and Luvena Labor, Shannon Petty, and Robert and Janice Petty, I would like to say “Thank You” to Charlotte Jackson, Jason (last name unknown), Sherman Ward and others whose names I do not know for their efforts in getting water to our homes.

My parents, John and Luvena Labor, have carried drinking water for more than 32 years. We have carried drinking water for 30 years. Ms. Jackson kept encouraging us and assuring us that one day we would have water. Finally, in December of 2002 it became a reality.

Again, thank you to everyone who had a part.

Program helps first-time homebuilders

Dear Chief Pyle,

I would like to say that Richard at Hugo Housing Authority did a great job getting my septic and water installed. This program is a great program for first-time homebuilders. Thanks for the help.

Brian Ringels


8th Annual California Choctaw Gathering

**May 2-4, 2003
Camp Okihi in Choctaw Valley,
Bakersfield, California**

Highlights include:

- * Choctaw Family Social Event
- * Honoring Choctaw Veterans * Princess Contest
- * Bake-Off Contest * Dressmaking Class
- * Choctaw Social Dancing * Choctaw Beading Class
- * Choctaw Games * Choctaw Vendors
- * Health Screening * Hunting Contest
- * Traditionalist and Elders to talk about our past and ancestors
- * Choctaw Traditional Food Booth

For more information call
661-393-6552, fax 661-393-6022
or e-mail oklachahta@igalaxy.net
You may also visit our website for more information
and a map: www.oklachahta.org



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- Recommended Materials
- AVAcaster
- Frequently asked questions

**1-800-522-6170
ext. 5152 or ext. 5163**



*From the desk
of Chief Gregory E. Pyle*

Operation Choctaw Care

In order to show support and concern for military personnel who have been deployed overseas, the Choctaw Nation hopes to have a special care package mailed to all Choctaws who are serving our country.

There are many special items the soldiers have found difficult or even impossible to obtain, especially those who are serving in desert environments. The Choctaw Nation wishes to spearhead an effort to collect and distribute items that can make their lives overseas more comfortable and enjoyable while they are protecting our freedom.

Please submit information on any soldiers that you would like included on the list to receive a Choctaw Care package. Information needed includes their social security number, name, rank and address where they can receive the package, as well as their hometown address.

The names and addresses for soldiers and donated items for the Choctaw Care packages may be given to staff in either the Public Relations office or the Human Resources office at the Tribal Complex in Durant at 16th and Locust Streets. You may call these offices at 1-800-522-6170 or (580) 924-8280 for more information.

Choctaws have historically taken great pride in being citizens of two great nations, the Choctaw Nation and the United States. I feel this is a great opportunity to show our patriotism by supporting the men and women who have volunteered to serve.

The first shipment of Choctaw Care packages left Durant via the U.S. Post Office on Friday, March 21, 2003. Additional care packages will be mailed as soldiers' names and addresses are submitted.

Any contributions for the Choctaw Care packages will be greatly appreciated. Items being requested from the men and women serving our country in the war include:

Instant coffee, powdered Gatorade, powdered hot chocolate, Kool-aid, tea bags, jerky, Slim Jim's, crackers and Easy Cheese, chips (the kind in cans ship better), candy (no chocolate – it melts), Little Debbie Snack Cakes, bubble gum, Rice Krispie Treats, dry cereal, Kraft Easy Mac, microwave popcorn, granola bars, power bars, dried fruit, Chex Mix, canned soup, tuna, spices, summer sausage, oatmeal, salsa, lollipops, marshmallows, gum, Ragu Express, canned chicken, salad dressing, instant soup, fast food condiments, flea collars (one for each boot), mosquito netting, Clorox Wipes, baby wipes, razors, shampoo/conditioner, aftershave, soap or body wash, mouth wash, deodorant, T-shirts, underwear and socks, a big fluffy towel, eye drops, lip balm/chapstick, sun block, lotion, Skin-so-Soft, dental floss, feminine hygiene products, baby powder, foot powder, combs/brushes, cotton balls, Q-tips, liquid hand sanitizer, Listerine strips, breath mints, contact lens cleaner, hair bands, nail clippers/files/polish, small mirrors, body sprays, hair spray (pump), hair gel, perfume, batteries, a stress ball, paper and envelopes with a nice writing pen, phone cards (AT&T cards work best from Kuwait), paperback books, magazines, disposable cameras, puzzles, film, journals, yo-yos, squirt guns, Frisbees, dart boards, small flash lights, Hackie Sacks, jump ropes, electronic hand-held games, post cards from your home state, handmade items, radio head sets, portable CD players, mini fans, jokes and comics, balloons, caps, bandannas, white socks, candles, blankets, bug off, single sheet sets, banners, board games, toys: slinky, sidewalk chalk, (anything silly), foam footballs and basketballs (miniature).

Do not send pressurized items, aerosols, or items containing pork.

Herrington is first Native American to walk in space

John Herrington, the first Native American to walk in space, visited Durant, Oklahoma for the annual Native American Visitation Day at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He was the guest speaker for the evening banquet event.

Herrington was also the honored guest and speaker at a reception hosted by the Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Nation, and Southeastern Oklahoma State University at the Choctaw Inn. At the reception John Herrington spoke about his space experiences and his pride of being a Native American.

John Herrington became the first tribally registered Native American astronaut launched into space November 23, 2002, aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour from NASA's Kennedy Space Center for the 16th American assembly flight to the International Space Station.

To honor his Native American heritage, Herrington carried a flag of the Chickasaw Nation



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, SOSU President Glen D. Johnson, John Herrington and Chickasaw Governor Bill Anoatubby.

with him into space. Herrington's maternal great-grandmother was of Chickasaw descent. Members of the Chickasaw Nation and Elders from other tribes witnessed this historic launch.

Selected by NASA in April

1996, Herrington has logged over 3,300 flight hours in over 30 different types of aircraft. He is an experienced Naval Aviator and Naval Test Pilot.

Following his tour as a test pilot, Herrington attended the U.S.

Naval Postgraduate School where he earned a Master of Science degree in aeronautical engineering. He is also a Sequoyah Fellow with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

Harley leaves for Kuwait

Staff Sgt. Michael Harley was recently deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. SSG Harley joined the U.S. Army in August of 1991 after graduating high school.

Harley is the son of Michael and Una Harley of Idabel, Oklahoma and the grandson of Charles Roy and Effielene Harley of Idabel and the late Anderson and Evelyn Battiest Winship of Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

He is assigned to the Third Infantry Division based at Fort Benning, Georgia. This is his second deployment to Kuwait. Harley has been deployed to several countries for training or in support of peacekeeping missions including Panama, Somalia, Haiti, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Puerto Rico, Japan, Korea, Bosnia and Macedonia.

Harley has been awarded five Army commendation medals and 13 Army achievement medals. He has also achieved the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Ranger, Airborne and Air Assault Badge. Harley was also awarded several unit citations and humanitarian service medals in support of disaster situations in the United States.

Upon his return from Operation Enduring Freedom in Kuwait, Harley will be leaving the military to further his college education.



McDowell is deployed

Pvt. Daniel McDowell of the 101st Air Assault, Ft. Campbell, Kentucky has been deployed to the Gulf Coast.

Daniel is a 2002 graduate of Colbert High School and also attended the Kiamichi Vo-Tech. He is the son of Richard and Debra McDowell of Colbert and the grandson of Johnny and Reta McDowell of Frederick and the late Roy and Mauddeen Smith of Colbert. Daniel is the great-grandson of original enrollee Sudie Dodson Booth.



Choctaw Marine in Kuwait

Cpl. Brian D. Barcus of Palmer, Texas, serving with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), left from Camp Pendleton, California for the Middle East on January 7. Cpl. Barcus left aboard the USS Rushmore, an amphibious assault ship, along with the USS Tarawa and the USS Duluth.

The USS Rushmore's mission is to transport Marines with their combat equipment throughout the world. This unit consists of 2,000-plus highly trained Marines who are certified capable of completing numerous operations which include airfield seizures, tactical recoveries of personal aircraft, amphibious raids and humanitarian assistance. This elite group of Marines completed a rigorous training program prior to deployment. They are certified "Special Operations Capable." The 15th MEU began moving ashore at a port in Kuwait just after dawn on February 12.

Brian's sisters and families, Paulette, Mike, Jeremy, Brandon, Samantha, Jessica and Montanna Robinson and Stephanie, Paul and Morgan Spray, and aunt and uncle, Barbara and Alan Shipley, all wish Brian a safe return. We are all proud of you Cpl. Barcus!



We miss you!

Chaska Tom would like to tell his daddy that he misses him and is very proud of him. Chaska's daddy, James "Spider" Tom, Jr. is an airframer in the U.S. Navy. He is currently overseas with VP-46 in Diego Garcia and is scheduled to return home to Oak Harbor, Washington this summer.

One-and-a-half-year-old Chaska and his mom, Joanna Tom, miss Spider very much. They are both so proud of the awards and commendations he has already received during this deployment, and wish to say "Thank You" for doing such an important job. We love you and want you to come home soon and safe – Chaska and Joanna.



Thank you to every one of the men and women who are serving our country!

*From the desk of
Assistant Chief
Mike Bailey*

All-Indian Rodeo Association

The first two Choctaw Nation Region 8 Rodeo performances have been set for Sunday, April 6 at the Hugo Rodeo & Horse Club Arena. Membership and entry fees will be accepted at 10:00 a.m., stock will be drawn and church services will begin at 11:00 a.m., and the rodeo will begin at 12:00 p.m. The second rodeo performance will immediately follow the first one. The second Region 8 Rodeo performances will be May 4, 2003 at the Hugo arena.

Membership fees will be \$60 for this season and junior contestants (14 and under) will not be required to purchase a membership. You must be a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe in order to join our association. Entry fees will be \$60 per event (\$120 per team for team roping) and \$20 for junior events. Added money will be \$300 per event (\$600 for team roping), and \$100 for junior events. Once again the CNAIRA has waived the membership fees for the juniors, as they are our future leaders and champions. The junior's entry fees will be \$20 per event with \$100 added money.

The Choctaw Nation is always striving to make their initiatives bigger and better and our Rodeo Association has done just that. Added money this year has increased to \$300 per event (\$600 for team roping), with membership and entry fees remaining the same except for team roping which will increase to \$60 this year. Contestants must compete in all four Region 8 regular performances to be eligible for the finals tentatively scheduled for July. If a contestant can't make it to a performance, they may pay their entry fees prior to the rodeo and still be eligible for the finals.

Congratulations to all the 2002 year-end champions and finals winners that made the INFR in Southern California. They all represented our region well.



Brenna Winship of Hugo shows the results of a highly successful 2002 season. She is pictured with Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.

Winship is Champion Break-Away Roper

Congratulations to Brenna Winship, of Hugo, Oklahoma for record accomplishments in the 2002 rodeo season. Brenna won three saddles in three major rodeo associations for having the most money won in that event. She was crowned the Champion Break-Away Roper at the United Professional Rodeo Association (UPRA) year-end finals in Sulphur Springs, Texas, the Louisiana Cowboys Rodeo Association (LRCA) year-end finals in Monroe, Louisiana and the Cowboys Regional Rodeo Association (CRRA) year-end finals in Claremore, Oklahoma.

Her horse, Chavez, also had major accomplishments last year. He was voted Horse of the Year both at the LRCA and CRRA finals. This award is voted on by the top 15 event qualifiers at each finals. This title is awarded to horses who have a big heart, and are athletic, competitive, and versatile.

"I was happy to find out that my horse won the title in the LRCA, but to find out that he won the title in the CRRA also was very exciting."

The UPRA did not vote on any horses.

In addition to the saddle, a buckle was awarded Brenna for having the fastest time on 3-Head at the LRCA Finals.

Brenna was proudly sponsored by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Used Trailers.com.

"I have known Brenna all her life and it is great to see her excel in this sport. Brenna was born on the same day as my daughter at the Talihina hospital," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "Brenna's leadership in rodeo events is a wonderful example of dedication and responsibility. Many young people look up to her as a role model."


"I am extremely proud of Brenna. It is unheard of for someone to win championships at all three associations in the same year," said Assistant Chief Mike Bailey. "I commend her for her commitment."

Brenna said her success was due to the support network that she had from family, friends and co-workers. "I especially thank Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey for their encouragement," said Brenna. "It means a lot to know they were behind my efforts and were interested in the results."

Brenna's parents are Kenneth and Dora Winship of Hugo, and her brother, sister-in-law and niece are Duane, Tanna and Alexis Winship.



During the month of March the Choctaw Nation Bennington Head Start discussed the importance of Spring weather safety. Patrick Barkley with the Choctaw Nation E.M.S. assisted Teacher Tera Trammell and Teacher’s Aide Priscilla Rochelle. Patrick conducted a tornado warning drill and then followed the teachers and children to the building-integrated storm shelter. The children then showed Patrick just what you should do in the event of an actual tornado warning.



Choctaw Nation WIC

Serving the Choctaw Nation at 14 sites

SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	Tuesdays
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	1st, 3rd & 4th Wed, every Tues. & Thurs.
Bethel	580-241-5458	8:30-4:00	1st & 3rd Tuesday
Boswell	580-566-2243	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Friday
Broken Bow	580-584-2746	8:30-4:00	2nd & 4th Tues., every Wed. & Thurs.
Coalgate	580-927-3641	8:30-4:00	2nd Wednesday
Durant	580-924-8280 x 2255	8:00-4:30	Daily
Hugo	580-326-5404	8:00-4:30	Mon., Wed., Thurs, & 3rd & 4th Fri.
Idabel	580-286-2510	8:00-4:30	Monday and Friday
McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30	Daily
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	1st, 2nd & 3rd Wednesday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Tuesday and Wednesday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	Mondays

WIC department gives tips for healthy eating

Little kids have little tummies

Children need to eat small meals throughout the day. Offer your child breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus healthy snacks in the morning and afternoon.

Set a good example

If you enjoy nutritious foods, chances are that your child will, too. Make healthy choices, including fruit and vegetables. Drink plenty of water and limit drinks with added sugars, such as soft drinks and juice drinks that are not 100% juice.

Take healthy snacks with you when you’re on the go

For example: half a sandwich and 100% juice, cheese and

Fruity Breakfast Parfait

- 2 cups chopped pineapple
- 1 cup lowfat vanilla yogurt
- 1 firm banana, peeled & sliced

In glasses, layer pineapple, yogurt and bananas.

Refrigerate until ready to eat.

crackers, cold, steamed broccoli and dip, a banana and a small bag of low sugar cereal.

Children eat much smaller portions of food than adults. The

general guideline for children ages 2 to 5 is half the amount of an adult portion.

Is your child a picky eater?

Try these tips. Keep offering a variety of nutritious food and let your child eat the amount he or she wants.

Serve very small portions. Your child can always ask for more.

It often takes several tries before a child likes a new food. Don’t give up – offer it again in a day or two.

Safety tip

Toddlers can choke on certain foods. Cut hot dogs into strips, then slice. Cut grapes into quarters.



Samantha is clinic’s 10,001st

Choctaw Nation Health facilities are working harder than ever to serve their Native American population. Samantha Thompson, born July 7, 2002 became the 10,001st chart made at the Rubin White Health Clinic in Poteau. The chart was opened March 11.

JOM

continued from Page 1 _____ women fresh out of high school are now preparing for war,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “It expresses the importance of uniting with others, with those we can share a common bond, as well as providing an exemplary educational experience for our children.”

The Choctaw Nation has implemented JOM in its service area since October of 1984. The program is active in 69 schools, helping meet the needs of 8,360 eligible students within the Choctaw Nation. JOM funds help provide the students with such things as school supplies and helps make available assistance in counseling, tutoring, and home schooling.

Researchers continue studies of ginkgo biloba

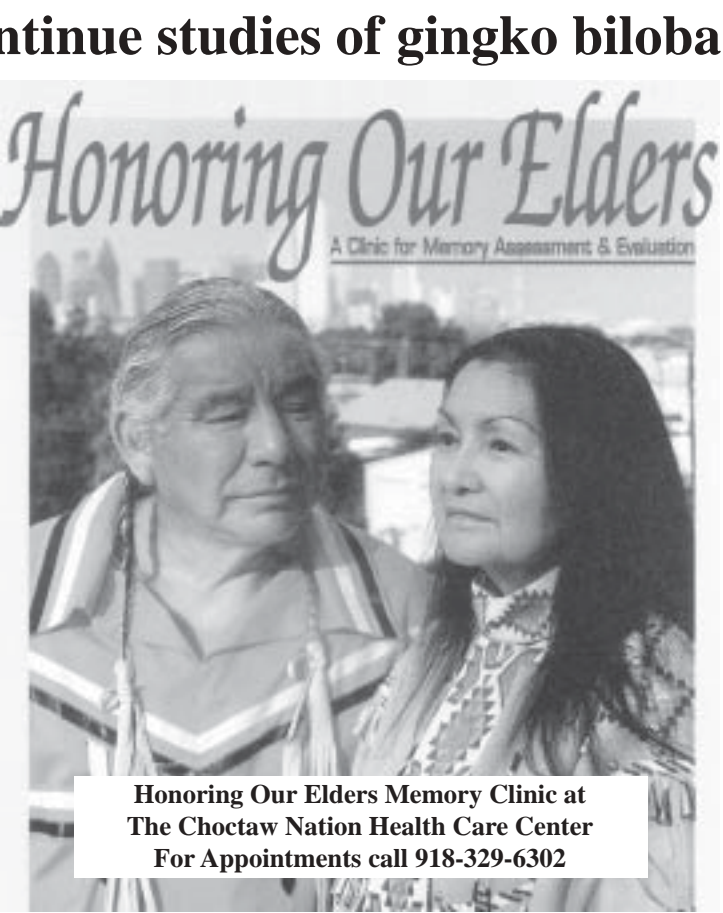
Ginkgo biloba, a readily available natural product, has been the focus of recent media reports as a potential treatment for Alzheimer’s disease. Although a 1997 study in the United States suggests that a ginkgo extract may be of some help in treating the symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease and vascular dementia, there is no evidence that it will cure or prevent Alzheimer’s disease.

In addition, some recent case studies imply that daily use of ginkgo biloba extracts may cause side effects, such as excessive bleeding, especially when combined with daily use of aspirin. Much more research is needed before scientists will know whether and how ginkgo biloba extracts benefit people.

For centuries, extracts from the leaves of the ginkgo biloba tree have been used as Chinese herbal medicine to treat a variety of medical conditions. In Europe and some Asian countries, standardized extracts from ginkgo leaves are taken to treat a wide range of symptoms, including dizziness, memory impairment, inflammation, and reduced blood flow to the brain and other areas of impaired circulation. Because ginkgo biloba is an anti-oxidant, some claims have been made that it can be used to prevent damage caused by free radicals (harmful oxygen molecules). Although Germany recently approved ginkgo extracts (240 mg a day) to treat Alzheimer’s disease, there is not enough information to recommend its broad use.

Researchers at the New York Institute for Medical Research in Tarrytown, New York conducted the first clinical study of ginkgo biloba and dementia in the United States. Their findings were published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (October 22/29, 1997). These scientists examined how taking 120 mg a day of a ginkgo biloba extract affected the rate of cognitive decline in people with mild to moderately severe dementia due to Alzheimer’s disease and vascular dementia. At the end of the study, they reported a small treatment difference in people given the ginkgo biloba extract.

Three tests were used to measure changes in the condition of participants. First, participants showed a slight improvement on a test that measured their cognitive function (mental processes of knowing, thinking, and learning). Second, participants showed a slight improvement on a test that measured social behavior and mood changes that were observed



by their caregivers. Third, participants showed no improvement on a doctor’s assessment of change test.

People should consult with their family doctors before using ginkgo biloba extracts. This is especially true for those with disorders in blood circulation or blood clotting and those taking anti-coagulants such as aspirin. Many different preparations of ginkgo biloba extract are available over the counter. They vary in content and active ingredients. Because not enough research has been done, no specific daily amount of a ginkgo biloba extract can be recommended as safe or effective at this time.

Anyone who is worried about a memory problem should see a doctor. Symptoms similar to those caused by Alzheimer’s disease may be caused by other medical conditions, including a high fever, dehydration, vitamin deficiency and poor nutrition, bad reactions to medicines, thyroid problems, depression, or a minor head injury. Medical problems like these are serious and should be treated by a doctor as soon as possible. (Information from Ginkgo Biloba Fact Sheet, National Institute on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, May 1998)

Honoring Our Elders Memory Clinic, a clinic for memory assessment and evaluation, is located at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. Honoring Our Elders is a diagnostic clinic for Choctaws and American Indians who are experiencing memory impairment and dementia symptoms. In addition, the clinic is conducting research among Choc-taws and American Indians to determine the risk, incidence, and prevalence of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia among the American Indian Population. Honoring Our Elders is a program of the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas, located in Dallas, TX and a satellite clinic of the Alzheimer’s Disease Center located at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.

Individuals or their family physician may schedule an appointment by calling Shane Goode, Regional Coordinator at (918) 329-6302. Patients may also be seen at other Choctaw Nation Health Care Clinics. For caregiver assistance and additional information/available resources about memory disorders, call Carey Fuller, Health Educator at (918) 522-4719.

OK Choctaws plan Health Fair

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance is holding a Health Fair from 2-6 p.m. April 14.

Optional screenings will be held for cholesterol, diabetes, blood pressure and body mass index.

For more information, contact Amy Hoffman-Franks, 800-349-7026, ext. 6675, or Pam Reed, 405-688-4191.

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance is located at 5320 S. Youngs Blvd. in Oklahoma City.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION						
MAY 2003						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Closed Inventory	2 Closed Inventory	3
4	5 Coalgate 9-10:30 Stigler 9-2 Atoka 12-2	6 Wilburton 9-12 Broken Bow 9-2	7 Talihina 9-12	8	9 Bethel 9-10:30 Smithville 12-2	10
11	12	13 Poteau (A-H) 9-2	14	15 Wright City 9-10:30 Hugo 12-2	16	17
18	19 Poteau (I-P) 9-2	20	21 Idabel 9-12	22	23 Poteau (Q-Z) 9-2	24
25	26 Tribal Holiday <small>Memorial Day</small>	27	28 Closed Inventory	29 Closed Inventory	30 Closed Inventory	31

Food Distribution Sites

ANTLERS – Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 306 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.

Oklahoma City Choctaws enjoy meeting



Alyssa accompanied dad Jeff Gazaway.



Stella Long and Sara and Myrtle King present Council Speaker Kenny Bryant with a beautiful handwork seal.



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey visits with Desiree McNelly, Adriana McNelly, Shirley Nagel, David Pennington, Jr., Ronnie Nagel and Nicole Brittner.



Young Bailee Cheyenne Davis helps Chief Gregory Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Special Projects Director Sue Folsom with drawing for door prizes.



Jordan and Sundance Ferrell are among those attending the meeting. Jordan will be two years old this month. Happy birthday!



Jimmy and Gina Castro talk with Gary Batton, Executive Director of Health.



CM/SE

POSITION AVAILABLE

GENERAL OFFICE WORKER

Choctaw Management/Services Enterprise has General Office Worker positions available at the Immigration and Naturalization Service office in the Dallas area. Salary is \$10 per hour. Basic knowledge of MS Word and Excel is a big plus. In addition to excellent benefits, which include 401(k), full medical/dental/vision, and paid sick and vacation leave, we offer a fast-paced work environment. U.S. citizenship required. Mail resume only to:
CM/SE / INS
ATTN: Wilmagrace Carpenter
8201 Corporate Drive, Ste. 250
Landover, MD 20785
Please refer to this ad in all correspondence.

Training seminars held

The Leadership Training Program recently held seminars in McAlester, Durant, Broken Bow and Wilburton for all Travel Plaza employees to participate and enhance their leadership skills.

Mike Garvin, co-founder of Leadership Enablers, provided the instruction for the workshops. A professional trainer, Mike worked with AT&T for 30 years, with 12 of those years spent in conflict management.

Mike is one-half Choctaw and very proud of his heritage and culture. He understands the importance of strong leadership at all levels within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and its business enterprises.

Effective communications, work ethics, conflict resolution, teamwork, self-esteem, job performance and responsibility were among the topics Mike covered in the seminars.



Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

May God bless you and your loved ones as we celebrate Easter 2003, the Resurrection of our Risen Savior – the Lord Jesus Christ. God the Father was pleased with the substitutionary death of His only Begotten Son. The third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, raised Him up from the dead. (John 3:16; Romans 8:11 NIV)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” (I Corinthians 15:17 NIV). Jesus said in the Book of Revelation 1:18 NIV, “I am the living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! ...”

The grand theme of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ. All the blood sacrifices recorded in the Old Testament pointed to the time when Jesus Christ would come as the Lamb of God and lay down His life for the sins of the whole world when He died on the Cross.

Now the New Testament looks back upon this finished work of Christ on the cross. God's Plan of Salvation was finished at the cross, there is nothing else that can be done or be added. God the Father's Plan of Salvation has been finished. We can only confess – agree with God – that we are sinners and trust Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. This is done by faith in His finished work. This is the only way we can come into the presence of God, and this is the only message of salvation we can preach.

After Jesus finished, God and the Father's Plan of Salvation He went back to Heaven and one day, soon, He will return for His own. He will come for His Church.

The revelation of the Church was not granted to the Prophets in the Old Testament. The mystery hid from them was the bringing together of Jews and Gentiles into a body, the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which we know as the Church.

By a distinct revelation of the Holy Spirit Paul understood and declared this mystery of Christ, namely that Gentiles and Jews should be fellow heirs, and of the same body. (Ephesians 3:1-9). We thank God for the New Testament which reveals to us the truth of the glorious Hope of Christ appearing for the redeemed.

There is, for example, the Lord Jesus' prediction that though He was to leave His own, He would return for them and take them to be with Himself. He said in John 14:3, “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself that where I am, there ye may be also.”

As we read our Bible we can know that Jesus Christ is coming back and that His coming is very near. Right after the Church is taken out of this world, there will begin a time of Great Tribulation – a period of seven years when God will pour out His wrath upon this earth. Right at the beginning of this Tribulation Period the antichrist will appear.

In the Book of Revelation, in chapters 17 and 18, we have a picture of the professing church during the Tribulation Period. As we look at this picture, I believe we will come to the conclusion that the professing church today is very close to the condition that shall prevail in the professing church during the Tribulation Period. One thing for sure, from our studies in these two chapters, chapters 17 and 18, in the Book of Revelation, in the Tribulation Period the professing church shall be based on an apostate foundation. This apostate, false church is described as a harlot, a prostitute. Her name was “Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth.” (Revelation 17:5).

I believe one of the signs of the great apostasy is the rise of false prophets around us. There are those who deny the doctrine of the Trinity, the doctrine of Grace, the Inspiration and Inerrancy of the Word of God, the Blood Atonement, the Bodily Resurrection and the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. There are those that deny that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, that He is the Son of God.

The Apostle John warned the Christians of the false prophets when he wrote concerning those who denied the deity of Jesus Christ in First John 4:1-3 NIV, “Dear Friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”

John continues in verse 4, “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

If the Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon, our question today is, “What kind of life should we be living?” How does the soon coming of Jesus Christ affect your life? More than anything else, God wants us to live expecting His return. Whatever decisions we make we should make them in the light of the fact that the coming of the Lord is very near. Live expectantly. May God help us to live that kind of life.

Perhaps the greatest thing you need to realize is this, that the coming of Jesus Christ for His Church, the Rapture of the Church, will cut off forever your eternal destiny if you have not received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. You will in the words of II Thessalonians 2, be compelled to believe a lie, the lie of the antichrist.

Do you know Jesus Christ? Do you know the forgiveness of the cross and the power of Christ's Resurrection? (Read John Chapter 20.) Are you forgiven? Have you received new life – the Resurrection Life? Will you make your commitment to Jesus Christ today? God will help you, if you are willing.

Please continue to pray for our brave men and women in the Armed Forces. Pray for America. Pray for our Native Americans. Pray for our spiritual leaders.

Fast Track Program is giant step to new career

Murray State College is partnering with the Choctaw Nation to provide education for the positions needed by the Choctaw Nation and Choctaw Management/Services Enterprises in the field of computer technology. The Fast Track Program is a unique 48-week program that will provide skills necessary for a career in computer/networking technology while achieving your associate's degree. The Choctaw Nation will offer internship opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience while completing the program as well as job opportunities upon completion.

Financial assistance is available through the Choctaw Nation; in addition, MSC offers various scholarships as well as state and federal aid programs. For more information, please contact Tony Winningham, Program Director, at 580-371-2371, ext. 265 or twinningham@mscok.edu.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY <i>May Calendar</i>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
A Vocational Rehabilitation and Projects With Industry Representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Mon.-Fri. 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.				1	2 Idabel 10 am-2 pm	3
4	5 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	6 Durant 10-12 noon	7 McAlester 10 am-2 pm Stigler by appt. only	8	9 Broken Bow 9:30 am-2 pm	10
11	12 Antlers by appt only	13	14 Atoka 9 am-11 am Coalgate 12 noon-2 pm	15	16 Poteau 11 am-1:30 pm	17
18	19	20 Durant by appt only	21 Crowder by appt only McAlester by appt only	22	23 Wright City by appt only	24
25	26	27	28 Wilburton 10:30 am-2 pm	29	30 Bethel by appt only	31

CHOCTAW NATION GED CLASSES

Hughes County
Beginning April 28, 2003
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Calvin School Head Start Building
in Calvin, Oklahoma

Pittsburg County
Beginning April 29, 2003
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
Crowder, Oklahoma

McCurtain County
Beginning May 12, 2003
Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center
in Broken Bow, Oklahoma

Atoka County
Beginning May 13, 2003
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
in Atoka, Oklahoma

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

REI offers business financing opportunity

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma aggressively seeks opportunities to expand its services and the latest expansion of services includes access to business financing. Through a partnership with Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc., entrepreneurs wishing to start a business or expand an existing one now have an avenue to secure the capital for their business ventures.

Beginning April 16, an REI loan officer will be available at the Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant to meet with entrepreneurs one-on-one. Just a phone call to Choctaw Nation Headquarters is all it takes to schedule a meeting. Persons interested in starting a business, or expanding an existing business are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about business financing and other types of assistance available to them. As an additional service, REI will be waiving its application fee for Choctaw applicants.

"We welcome this opportunity to host an REI loan officer at our headquarters," Chief Gregory E. Pyle said. "I certainly encourage our entrepreneurs to take advantage of this. We have a good working relationship with REI and are pleased to expand this partnership to help meet the business assistance needs of our small businesses."

REI is a nonprofit economic development firm that has been working with Oklahoma entrepreneurs for more than 20 years. The organization offers access to business financing, administers a business incubator program and an equipment program for small manufacturers. It also provides international trade assistance and several other services. For a good overview of the organization, check out REI's web site at www.ruralenterprises.com.

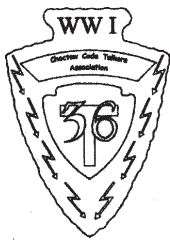
Please call Beverly Akin, 800-522-6170 at Choctaw Nation Headquarters, to schedule a time to visit with an REI loan officer.

All Night Gospel Singing

Sponsored by United Methodist Women
In loving memory of Mrs. Lena Frazier

April 12, 2003

Dallas Indian United Methodist Church
1203 Hollywood, Dallas, TX 75208 • 214-331-8261
Featuring: Faith, Hope & Love; Two Rivers; Shingo Kisling;
Praise Group; Emcee: Mel Gaines



Halito!

**Choctaw Code Talker
Association
Second Annual Cookbook**

We invite you to submit your favorite recipes to be featured in our second annual cookbook. The cookbooks will be displayed and sold at the Labor Day Festival in Tuskahoma, Oklahoma this coming September.

Please include the following information when submitting your recipe:

- From the kitchen of (your name)
- Recipe
- Special instructions (size of dish, degree of oven, baking time, etc.)
- Servings and calorie content (if known)

Attach your recipe and mail to either:

Anella (Bobb) Garcia	Evangeline Wilson
4712 NW 90th Terrace	P.O. Box 1671
Kansas City, MO 64154	Chickasha, OK 73023
816-420-0424	405-222-0142

It is the Association's purpose to preserve the history, dedication and sacrifice the Choctaw Code Talkers made to our country during WWI and WWII.

*If you are unable to attend the Labor Day Festival,
please contact us to purchase a cookbook!*

Range, Wildlife Academy set June 22-27 in Kenton

The Oklahoma Section of the Society for Range Management is seeking high school students to participate in the Oklahoma Range and Wildlife Academy. The Academy will be held June 22-27 at Kenton, Oklahoma. This Academy will be a cooperative effort among Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Students will explore the rangelands of the five-state area. The five-day Academy provides the opportunity to learn more about range and wildlife management, conservation planning, plant identification, conflict resolution and leadership development. Oklahoma students will be supported by a grant from the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education. This course will be taught by members of the Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas Sections of the Society for Range Management along with personnel from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and Conservation Districts.

"Rangelands compose over one-half of the state's land use in Oklahoma," says Ann Colyer, NRCS, tribal resource conservationist. "These lands provide recreation, grazing for livestock, habitat for wildlife, and an excellent setting to teach ecological concepts to the youth of Oklahoma." The Academy is a fun week of meeting people, learning new skills, and spending time in a rangeland environment.

Applications for the Academy can be obtained at the local Conservation Districts or NRCS offices located in the county where you live or by phoning Ann Colyer at 580-924-8280, ext. 5134. Applications must be postmarked by May 15, 2003.

SWCS conservation scholarships available

The All-Oklahoma Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is accepting applications from college sophomores and juniors for the SWCS Scholarships in Conservation Program. The purpose of this scholarship program is to encourage qualified students to increase their interests in natural resource conservation and pursue a career in this area of study. A maximum of three \$500 scholarships will be awarded to qualified applicants. Applicants must be current residents of Oklahoma and must be undergraduates who have completed three semesters at an accredited Oklahoma college or university. They must have a cumulative gpa of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) or better in their major field. Applicants must be enrolled or intending to enroll in an agricultural or natural resources related curriculum. Applications must be received by April 25. Applications may be obtained from individual college or university agricultural departments, Natural Resources Conservation Service field offices, or by contacting Clark Williams, SWCS Scholarship Chairman, at 405-466-3469.



The Choctaw Nation Color Guard posts the colors at the "To Bridge a Gap" conference.

To Bridge a Gap conference focuses on several issues

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation Department hosted the "To Bridge a Gap" conference for the second year at the Choctaw Inn on March 4 and 5.

This is an annual conference between the U.S. Forest Service and tribes interested in establishing relationships and flow of communication about mutual interests in managing cultural, natural, or social resources on the National Forests of Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Issues covered during the conference included Employment and Training Opportunities, Firefighting, Development and Input to Forest Plan Revisions, Special Uses of Forest Products for traditional or ceremonial purposes, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training or internships to manage tribal lands and resources.

Coordinating the conference were Terry Cole, Director of the Cultural Resources Department, and Olin Williams, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Spirit Wind 2003 - Prayer Day

Spirit Wind 2003 will be held 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, April 19 at the Choctaw Community Center, corner of 10th and Main in Wright City, Oklahoma. The time is set aside to pray for all Choctaws everywhere.

FSA reminds livestock producers of sign-up date

The Farm Service Agency began accepting Livestock Compensation Program applications on April 1 according to Jim Reese, State Executive Director. The LCP program provides assistance for livestock producers in drought stricken areas. Cash payments will be made to producers with eligible cattle, sheep, goats, buffalo, as well as catfish. To be eligible, a producer's live-


stock operation headquarters must be physically located in a county with a qualifying disaster designation. Previously, a county must have been named as a primary county under a Secretarial disaster designation between January 1, 2001 and September 19, 2002, only for drought. LCP has been expanded to make eligible those counties that were requested as primary

disaster areas by February 20, 2002, and subsequently approved. This change allowed McCurtain and Choctaw counties to be included, making the entire state eligible for the disaster assistance. The LCP payments will be based on losses per head of eligible livestock or catfish.

Producers who missed the first LCP signup are encouraged to

contact their local FSA office. Those who received LCP assistance in the previous signup do not need to reapply.

Signup is expected to end in early June. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for more details. Current disaster program information can be found on FSA's disaster website at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/default.asp>.



Choctaw Nation All-Indian Rodeo Association Region 8

Sunday - May 4, 2003

HUGO RODEO AND HORSE CLUB COVERED ARENA, HUGO, OKLA.

Two Rodeos – Performance Time: 12:00 p.m.

Books Open: April 21, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Entry Phone Number: 580-924-8112

**Senior Events - Bareback Riding, Saddle Bronc,
Bull Riding, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping,
Barrel Racing, Ladies Breakaway, Calf Roping**

Junior Events - Junior Barrel Racing, Junior Steer Riding


Entry Fee:
Senior \$60.00/Junior \$20.00

Added Money:
Senior \$300.00 per event
Junior \$100.00 per even
Team Roping: \$600.00

Stock Contractor: John Potter

To request a membership application form,
please call (580) 924-8112.

All applicants must have a CDIB card to be eligible to compete.



People You Know



Zachary Drake Tisho, two months old; Matthew Dean Jones, five months; Hunter Elliott Gipson, two years old, and Zoe Abigail Tisho, two years old.

Happy birthday!

Zachary Drake Tisho would like to wish his big sister, Zoe Abigail, a happy birthday. Zoe celebrated her third birthday on March 8. She is the daughter of Robbie and Tracy Tisho, the granddaughter of Minnie Jones and Kenneth Tisho and Darlene Tisho. She is the great-granddaughter of Annie Mae Wilson and Newman and Mary Tisho, all of Broken Bow, Oklahoma and the great-great-granddaughter of Julia Tims of Smithville, Oklahoma. All her aunts, uncles and cousins would also like to wish her a happy birthday. Zachary and Zoe would like to wish their mother a belated birthday on February 21.

Hunter Elliott would like to wish his little brother, Matthew Dean, a happy birthday. Matthew celebrated his first birthday on March 14. He is the son of Carrie Gipson of Wright City, Oklahoma and Gary Jones of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, grandson of Sharon Gipson of Wright City and Minnie Jones of Broken Bow, the great-grandson of Annie Mae Wilson of Broken Bow and the great-great-grandson of Julia Tims of Smithville. All of his aunts, uncles and cousins would also like to wish him a happy birthday.

Matthew turns five

Matthew Ryan Sieber celebrates his fifth birthday on March 11. He is the son of L. Scott and Debbie Brown Sieber of Lakeland, Florida.

Matthew attends preschool at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Lakeland. Proud grandparents are Donal and Kay Brown of Winter Haven, Florida and Bennie and Don Driskell of Purcell, Oklahoma. Happy birthday - love, Mom and Dad.



Little Thunder turns three

Jada Kaitlyn McCarter turns three this March and is the pride of the family.

Parents are Ben and Becca McCarter of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Grandparents are Andrew Kicking Horse McCarter of Lancaster and Elizabeth and David Duerr of Fayetteville. "Chi hullo li and Chipunta Hiloha!"



Happy fourth birthday

Happy fourth birthday on March 26 to Reanna Riddle.

Reanna is the daughter of Phillip Riddle and the granddaughter of Carolyn Riddle of Cleveland, Tennessee and the late Coleman H. Riddle of Bennington, Oklahoma.



Look who's one!

Happy birthday to Samuel Smith of Mesquite, Texas! He celebrated his first birthday on February 15 with his family and friends. Samuel is the son of John and Nancy Smith; the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Benton, Jr. of Arkansas City, Kansas; the great-grandson of the late original enrollee Nathan Benton, Sr. of Talihina, Oklahoma and the late Alice Gibson-Carnes of Oakland, California.

You are a gift from God and we love you so much!



Dad, daughter have birthdays

Happy belated birthday to my daughter, Christine "Tanchi," who turned three on February 17 and to my husband, David Byars. No, David, you can't stay 29 forever! Happy 34th on March 21! Good luck with keeping up with the kids at your beautifully ripe age! From "Sam" and "MiMi" - we love you!



Congratulations to this year's Senior Citizen Valentine King and Queen from Bethel Community Center – Elwood Ludlow and Louetta Frazier.

Belated birthday wishes

Jeannie Marie Robertson turned two years old on February 23.

Jeannie's parents are J.D. and Carmen Robertson of Caney, Oklahoma. Her grandparents are Michael and Greta Hunt of Opal, Wyoming.

We all wish you a happy birthday. We love you very much!



Gabriel turns seven

Happy birthday wishes go out to Gabriel Louis of Durant, Oklahoma who will turn seven on April 22. He attends Northwest Heights where he is a first grade student. His accomplishments include Student of the Month, Principal's Award, and Superintendent's Honor Roll.

Gabriel enjoys baseball, football, school, soccer, tennis, video games, and being with his family and friends.

He is the son of Terry Louis of Durant. His MiMi is Lillian Louis of Dallas, Texas and he is the great-grandson of the late Rev. William and Pearley Louis of Wright City, Oklahoma.

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



Homecoming queen

Britney Diane Gambill, a senior at Yukon High School, was crowned the wrestling homecoming queen on January 30. Along with this achievement, Britney maintains a 4.0 grade point average, has been listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students for two years and has been a Gold Elite National Honor Roll student for two years. She has also been awarded Volunteer of the Year twice.

Britney is a member of FCCLA, serving as historian. She is a football manager, a wrestling mat maid and helps with track. She is also a representative for Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Britney skipped her junior year and is taking college classes during her senior year in high school. She plans to attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

She is the daughter of Mark and Gwen Gambill of Yukon, Oklahoma and the granddaughter of Ray Gambill of Oklahoma City and Bob Christie and Peggy Christie of Yukon. She is the great-granddaughter of Hattie Penner of Yukon.



Sweet 16

Happy belated birthday to Sarah Ward. Sarah turned 16 years old on February 18. We all wish her lots of love and blessings – dad, Travis Ward, and stepmother, Rose; uncle, Teddy Ward, and Kevin, LaDonna, Carol Ann and Marcos Rasha, all from Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Happy Sweet 16 birthday, baby!



Margaret turns seven

Happy birthday to Margaret McKowen who turned seven years old on February 8. She is a first-grader in San Diego, California.

Her mom is Tammi Broom, grandmother is Ester Abrahamo and she has a brother, Jeffrey, who is 16 years old.



Happy tenth, Natascha

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to our little girl, Natascha H. Poole.

Natascha turned ten years old on March 18. We are so proud of her and thank God for giving her to us. Love Daddy, Mommy, Nancy, Taylor and C.B. Too.



Brianna is three

Happy third birthday on April 5 to Brianna Mitch of Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Brianna is the granddaughter of Pete, Jr. and Annie Noah of Hugo, Oklahoma. Daddy loves you, too, sweetie!



Look who's two!

Happy birthday to Chaney Hunter John who turned two years old on March 26.

He is the son of Amelia and Chris John and the grandson of Alfreda and Freeman John and Gloria and Donald Bell, all of Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Chaney's great-grandparents are the late Lucy and Justin Hardy.



Danielle turns 21

Happy birthday to Danielle R. Hardy who turned 21 years old on March 9.

Danielle is the daughter of Julie and Jesse Hardy of Lawrence, Kansas. Her grandparents are the late Lucy and Justin Hardy and Cora and Izzie Bermudez of Lawrence.



Cameron is four

Cameron Blake Ludlow celebrated his fourth birthday with friends and family on February 1 at the Little People's Park in Antlers, Oklahoma. He had a wonderful birthday with a 4-wheeler cake and lots of presents.

Cameron was born on January 29. His parents are Terry and Kimberly Ludlow. Grandparents are Roy and Margaret Ludlow, Clyde Hunsucker and Cheryl Prater, all of Antlers.



Happy 97th birthday

We would like to wish a very happy 97th birthday on March 2 to this special and loving Allie Mae Jones. From the Chaparro Family, Reyna, Jesus, Rebecca, Alicia and Veronica, Santana Pacheco, Kathy Leach, Donna Pacheco, Joyce and Marshall Purser, John and Darwin, and all the other relatives and friends.



Happy 92nd, Champ

Champ Huddleston will celebrate his 92nd birthday on April 19.

Champ is wished a very happy birthday by his wife of 67 years, Mary; son, Clark Huddleston; daughter, Carol Wilson; grandchildren, Debbie, Kenneth, Charles and Sherrie; great-grandchildren, Steven and Victoria; and friends of the family, Kassie Roberts and her children and grandchildren. Happy birthday, Champ, we love you!



Ina Jackson is 75!

Happy birthday to our Mom and Grandma, Ina Jackson.

We love you!!!



Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Kya Maekay Pelayo. Kya will be two years old on April 21. She is the daughter of Dee Hank of Calera, Oklahoma and Tony Pelayo of Durant, Oklahoma.

Kya would like to wish her grandmother, Debbie Gilmore of Lawrence, Kansas, a very happy birthday on April 10.



Nashoba is 15 now

What has happened to Nanny's little boy? He's 15 now! Nashoba Choate celebrated his 15th birthday on March 14.

Happy birthday from Nannie and PaPa Sieger.

Also, happy birthday to Jamie Hall from his very proud mom. Jamie turned 23 on February 3.



Kyra turns one

Kyra Elizabeth Shelton celebrated her first birthday on February 27. Her actual birthday is March 1. Kyra is the daughter of Michael and Tashina Shelton of Virginia Beach, Virginia. She is the granddaughter of Jackie Barnes of Marietta, Oklahoma and Betty Barnes of Thackerville, Oklahoma. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Burton and Ruby Jo McCage and the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Bettye Elizabeth Martin.



Sandy celebrates 11th

Happy birthday wishes are sent to Sandy Miller of Modesto, California. Sandy turned 11 years old on March 13. She is in the fifth grade at Paradis Elementary. Happy birthday, Sandy!



Jennifer turns 23

Happy birthday to Jennifer Rose Norman who turned 23 on March 9. She is the daughter of Carol Rasha.

We would all like to wish her a very happy birthday with lots of love and many years of happiness – from Grandma Rose Ward and her brother, Marcos Rasha. May God bless you every day.



Happy birthday!

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my darling wife, Sharon Annette Bruner, who turned 43 years young on March 7. I thank you for the 18 wonderful years of marriage and for the beautiful children that you and God have blessed me with. Mrs. Bruner, out of all the choices I made in life there is one that stands out from the rest and that is when I chose you as my wife. Happy birthday, baby! With love from your husband, Ray Bruner.



Look who's turning two!

Thunder Lee Reese McKinney turns two years old on April 25. Proud parents are Diana McKinney and Erik Harley of Idabel, Oklahoma. Proud grandparents are Marsha and David McKinney and Una and Mike "Bear" Harley, all of Idabel. Great-grandparents include Olen and Maude Durant of Sobol, Oklahoma and Roy and Effielene Harley and Helen and Ray Hester, all of Idabel. Thunder's great-great-grandma is Ella Jones of Idabel.

Thunder would like to say a happy belated birthday to his great-grandma, Maude Durant, on January 30; cousin, Melton Aaron, on February 28; mother, Diana McKinney, on March 2; uncles, David, Jr. on March 24 and Anthony McKinney on March 25, and his Aunt Regina McKinney on April 14.

Thunder would also like for everyone to say a special prayer for his Uncle Mikey Harley who is stationed in Kuwait.



Happy 35th anniversary

Connie Murlene and Dennis Lester were married on April 1, 1968. They were blessed with four daughters. We want to tell you we love you and congrats! Love always and forever, Trudy, Allenia, Maramma, Tisha and their families.



Celebrating birthdays

Celebrating their birthdays together in January were brother and sister, Shawn and Melissa Drummonds, and their grandmother, Shirley Nale Drummonds. Shirley, an Oklahoma City-area Choctaw, turned 65 years old on January 23. A native of McAlester, Shirley is married to Harold Drummond, formerly of Haileyville, Oklahoma.

Shawn and Melissa were both born on January 24. Shawn turned 21 and Melissa turned 12. They live in Bono, Arizona with their parents, Steve and Cindy Drummonds.

Celebrating anniversary

Bill and Louise Amos recently celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary. They have three children and are proud to be the grandparents of Justin, Dayla, Derrick, Nikki, Zachary and Andrew.

Our faith in God has helped us through hard times but overall life has been good to us – Marriage should be like a duet. When one sings, the other claps.

Advice for a long, happy marriage can be found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

“Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

“Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

“Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”

Happy anniversary, Bill and Louise!

Dayla’s a teenager!

Dayla Amos turned 13 years old on March 6. She is a member of Broken Bow Middle School Savages Cheerleading squad, and was chosen by her classmates as the seventh grade and overall A.I.L.Y.C. Princess. She represented her overall title as princess at the annual A.I.L.Y.C. Pow Wow April 6 at Broken Bow.

Dayla is the daughter of Mike and Vicky Amos and the big sister to Nikki and Andrew Amos. She is the granddaughter of Marylin Colbert, and the late Nick Colbert and Bill and Louise Amos.

Happy birthday

Shanna McCoy turned 34 on March 9. Shanna is a poetry writer, voice-over talent and has been featured in films, television and print. Her goal is someday to win an Oscar.

Shanna is African-American, Choctaw, Mescalero Apache and Cherokee and is very proud of her rich heritage. She has a degree in American Indian Studies and is the founder of Black Indian Organization (BIO). Happy birthday!

Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate Kelly and Jody Watson. Kelly will be going to Job Corp in the near future and Jody is in school in Wickes, Arkansas. The boys are the children of Johnny and Anita Watson. They live in Wickes with their mother and sister, Vanessa. We wish both of you a good year!

Happy birthday wishes

Our Valentine baby and grandbaby, Cheyenne, turned two years old on February 14. Colby turned five years old on March 2. Cheyenne and Colby are the children of Tracey Tolbert and Timothy Young of Hurley, Mississippi. They are the grandchildren of Buford “B.T.” and Barbara (Noah) Tolbert of Gautier, Mississippi, and Gail Young and the late Randy Young of Lucedale, Mississippi. Great-grandparents include Pete Noah, Jr. of Hugo, Oklahoma, Wanda and Ben Moats of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and Evie Tolbert of Moss Point, Mississippi. They are the great-great-grandchildren of the late Altie Clem of Hugo. Happy birthday!

Happy birthday Michael, Daisy and Willard

Happy birthday to Michael Jeffery Thompson and to Daisy Mitchell. Michael turned 21 years old on April 3 and following behind him is his grandma, Daisy, who will be 79 on April 9. Both of them reside in Coxsackie, New York. Michael is the son of Mark and Lori Thompson. He has a sister, Christine Thompson. Daisy is the mother of Lisa Lydon and Lori Thompson and grandmother to Christine, Michael and Rick E. Lydon, all of Coxsackie. She is also the mother of Carol Fonseca of Oakland, Maryland and grandmother to Alicia, Nick and Brandon. Also, a belated happy birthday to Daisy’s brother, Willard Mitchell of Hillsborough, North Carolina. He turned 82 in March. Happy birthday to all three and we love you very much!

Caitlyn turns one

Wishing a happy first birthday to Caitlyn Rose Askew are her parents, Christie M. Hudson and Edmund G. Askew. Caitlyn’s grandparents are Rae Mae Hudson of Ponca City, Oklahoma and the late Michael D. Hudson and H.L. and Rossie Askew of Mannsville, Oklahoma. Her great-grandmother is Edna Hudson Sampson of Talihina, Oklahoma.

Happy birthday Uncle Carl

Cody Wayne Elliott, the son of Tommy and Carma Elliott, would like to wish his Uncle Carl Wayne Marlow a happy 42nd birthday on April 20th. Happy birthday Uncle Carl. I love you!

Look who’s turning one

Budgie Glen Cameron turns one year old on April 13. Budgie is the son of Robert, Jr. “Budgie” and Candace of Chelsea. He is the grandson of Robert and Gaye Cameron of Chelsea.

Happy birthday from Dad, Mom, Bubba, Dylan, Grampy, Gran and Uncle Travis. We love you very much.

Happy 15th birthday

Happy 15th birthday to Rhiannon Weaver who turned 15 on March 21.

Rhiannon’s proud parents, Herman and Carla Weaver, wish her a happy one and want her to know they are proud of her.

Love you, baby!

Happy birthday Noah

Michelle Noah would like to wish her little angel, Jerry Dale Noah, a happy third birthday on April 19. You are truly God’s special gift to the Noah family! – Grandpa Orville, Granny Linda and Mama Michelle.

Happy 12th birthday!

Mindy Nicole Paddock turned 12 years old on April 3.

Happy birthday, Mindy, from Grandpa and Grandma George. We love you!

Terri McKinney Baker among CSW delegates in New York

Terri McKinney Baker participated by invitation in the 47th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting and related Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) activities at the United Nations in New York from February 28 through March 7. She was a part of a delegation of rural community organizers sponsored by Rural Development Leadership Network (RDLN), an NGO non-profit organization based in New York. The RDLN delegation presented a session on “Technology and Rural Women” during the meetings.

The Rural Development Leadership Network, founded in 1983, is a national, multicultural non-profit organization based in New York. Its purpose is to support community-based development in poor rural areas through hands-on projects, education, leadership development and networking.

Dr. Baker is a Professor of English and a member of the Native American Studies Faculty at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. At the university she is also one of the sponsors of the Native American Student Association. Professor Baker is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Her mother, Geraldine McKinney, served on the Choctaw Nation Health Board for many years.

Dr. Baker is President of the Board of Advisors for the Native Women’s Cooperative Project in Tahlequah, a Native American women’s group which promotes products made by Native American women artists and which premiered a new “Cherokee Word” product during the New York trip.

All-around student

John D. Hale, 14, an eighth-grader at Jefferson Junior High School in Jefferson, Texas, plays trumpet in band. He is first chair and also made All-Region Band in January.

John was nominated to participate in the Leadership Program in February. He placed second with his Science Fair-chemical project on February 14.

“He’s a man with a plan.”



Gary Baggs, maintenance specialist, gave a contribution for Choctaw Nation Head Start in Bethel. Accepting for Bethel Head Start parent committee is Supervisor Michael Gills.



NURSERY News

Dennis Alan Hudson

Dennis Alan Hudson, shown here with his father, Larry James Hudson, was born on September 14, 2002. His mother is Ruth Blake Hudson. Dennis’ grandparents are Roger and Helen Blake of Kingfisher, Oklahoma, Rae Mae Hudson of Ponca City and the late Michael D. Hudson. His great-grandmother is Edna Hudson Sampson.



Meredith Faye Moore

Meredith Faye Moore was born November 19, 2002. She weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 20 inches long.

Proud parents are Aaron and Andrea Moore of Centralia, Washington. Grandparents are Frank and Pat Moore of Hood River, Oregon and Roger Webb of Boardman, Oregon. Her great-grandma is Ima Lou Webb of Bethel, Oklahoma.



Journey Shay Baker

The Baker family welcomes Journey Shay Baker, born January 5, 2003. Her parents are Abel and Kristeen Baker of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Grandparents are the late Johnny L. Baker, Wilhemina Baker of Wilburton, Oklahoma, Roy Medlock of Arkansas and the late Shirley Gibson of Bixby, Oklahoma.

Many aunts, uncles and cousins are very proud to have her in the family.



Reunions

Haskell University

The National Haskell Alumni Association announces its annual Alumni Reunion for 1950-1955 graduates. All graduates of the 1950s are invited to register May 8-11, 2003 at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. Please RSVP to Eugene Leitka, 3420 Black Hills Rd., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111, phone 505-299-5231, gleitka@aol.com, or to Louise Taylor, 2108 Stoneham Pl., NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. Events include commencement, reception, banquet, alumni dance and Haskell Pow Wow. Special rates for motel accommodations are at Holiday Inn (Holidome) by April 24 at 785-841-7077 or Hampton Inn by April 10 at 785-841-4994. Anyone may donate to the Reunion Fund or bring items to be auctioned.

Bloomfield-Carter Seminary

All former students and employees are invited to attend the Bloomfield-Carter Seminary Reunion, beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 18, 2003 in the Carter Seminary Gymnasium. The reunion is always held the first Saturday after Mother’s Day. For more information, please call Roberta Williams at 580-889-1931.

King

All descendants of William “Billy” King, 1825-1891, are invited to the King Annual Reunion at Cupco Church, 10 a.m. on May 24. Please bring a covered dish. For information call A.L. Wilmoth at 918-522-4449 or Janelle Kirkes at 918-522-4309. Cupco Church is located on Hwy. 2, ten miles north of Clayton, Oklahoma.

Thompson- McKinney

The Thompson and McKinney reunion will be held May 24 on Texanna Road in Fountainhead Park in Eufaula, Oklahoma. Indian tacos will be served at noon. Hot dogs and hamburgers are cooked before everyone goes home. Don’t miss the fun – Bingo and horse-shoe tournament. Sign up for a free prize. Everyone is invited.

For more information contact Faye (Thompson) Sago at 918-322-9644.

Chilocco Indian School

The Chilocco National Alumni Association is seeking former Chilocco Indian School students. You need not be graduates to be members of the Association. Dues are \$10 per year and Association members receive a quarterly newsletter. Others for whom we have a current address receive a newsletter once a year preceding the reunion. Reunions are open to all classes and alternate between Oklahoma City and Tulsa, where it will be held this year on June 12-15 at the Sheraton Hotel on East 41st St.

Please send name and address to Trent Tilley, Editor, HC 70 Box 2830, Kingston, OK 73439; fax/phone 580-564-1549.

Jones

Mark your calendar for a fun-filled weekend. The Jones Family Reunion is planned for June 27, 28 and 29, 2003. It will be held at the Choctaw Inn south of Durant, Oklahoma. For reservations, please call 580-920-2699. Weekends are busy, so it would be best if reservations were made early. If you play bingo on Friday night, save your receipt for a room discount.

We would like to meet the descendants and long-lost relatives of the rest of our kinfolk. These are the names on the Jones family 1906 Dawes Rolls: Robinson, Silway, Rennie, Rosanna, Silsaine and Artimissa.

For further questions or information, call Linda Bointy at 580-654-1731 or Kathy Hawkins at 417-624-9104.

Jefferson

Buster Jefferson has announced that the annual family reunion will be held June 28 at the usual location at Robber’s Cave Park in Wilburton. For more information, please call 405-685-0860.

Dallas Indian United Methodist Church 5th Annual Co-ed Basketball Tournament April 26, 2003

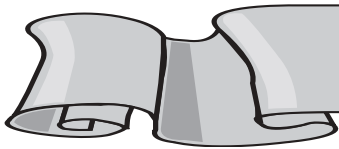
**Tyler Street Christian Academy
915 W. 9th St., Dallas, TX 75208**

Entry fee: \$150 per team. Deadline for entry fee is April 21. Tournament limited to the first 12 teams. Ten-player roster limit.

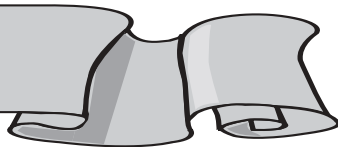
1st & 2nd place awarded a team trophy and T-shirts.

3rd place awarded a team trophy.

For more information, contact Ralph or Cindy Huffman
972-907-8516 or 972-839-8904



OBITUARIES



William Carl “Bill” Crane

William Carl “Bill” Crane, 59, of Shawnee, Oklahoma passed away Sunday, February 9, 2003 at the OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He was born November 26, 1943 in Davis, Oklahoma, the third of four children born to Noah and Viola (Stribling) Crane.

Bill grew up in Davis and graduated from Davis High School. He joined the U.S. Navy on November 28, 1960 and was honorably discharged on July 15, 1966. He then returned to Oklahoma and lived in Ardmore and Davis. He worked as a welder for a trailer company in Springer, Oklahoma for several years. He married Ladascode “Lou” Collins in Lexington, Oklahoma on December 28, 1989. He enjoyed arts and crafts, spending time with his family and talking with young people.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Billy Crane; and sister, Marie Mediola.

Survivors include his wife of the home; sons, Christopher Bryant Crane of Tahlequah, Oklahoma and Alfred C. Medina of Baltimore, Maryland; brother, Bobby Joe Crane of Phoenix, Arizona; sister, Dorothy Jones and Billy Ray of Wynnewood, Oklahoma; sisters-in-law, Juanita Williams of Healdton, Oklahoma, Mary Chesney and Amabel Tidmore, both of Wright City, Oklahoma and Ruth Treece of Arkansas, and grandchildren, Hali Nicole Crane and Cheyanne Medina.



Bobbie Green Gardner

Bobbie Green Gardner, 73, of Madill, Oklahoma passed away on Friday, October 18, 2002 at the Veterans Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. He was born October 16, 1929 in Bokchito, Oklahoma to the late Green and Ona Norris Gardner.

Bobbie was reared in Madill. He served in the U.S. Army and Air Force and was honorably discharged on October 1, 1960. Bobbie lived in San Francisco, California for several years before moving back to Madill in 1991. He had lived in Bonham, Texas for the last two years. He enjoyed golf and crossword puzzles.

Survivors include his ex-wife, Louise Gardner of San Francisco; sons, Lonnie Porter of Madill, Terrence Gardner and Melvin Green Gardner, both of San Francisco, and Marcel Gardner of Wichita, Kansas; brothers, John Gardner of Madill, Cecil Gardner and Sonny Gardner, both of Wichita, and Richard Gardner of Nebraska; sisters, Mary Beth Watson of Altus, Oklahoma and Deloris Gardner of Oklahoma City, and one grandchild, Ramone Gardner.



Dennis Neal Tucker

Dennis Neal Tucker passed away Monday, March 3, 2003. He was born March 2, 1951 in Chickasha, Oklahoma.

His family moved to Alaska when he was six years old and he lived there until he joined the U.S. Marines in 1969. Stationed in California, he made that his home until he passed away of pancreatic cancer at the young age of 52.

Dennis loved dredging for gold in the Sierra Nevada, fishing, hiking and all nature. He treasured his family and home life. He was always generous to those in need. The world has lost a beautiful man.

Survivors include his wife of 27 years, Sandra Lee, and two sons, Neal Lee and Virgil Aaron of California; his mother, Clara McKee, and two sisters, Glenda Cross and Charleen Carney, of Alaska; and many nieces and nephews.

Dallas Wayne “Poppie” Gilstrap

Dallas Wayne “Poppie” Gilstrap, 77, passed away Friday, February 14, 2003. He was born September 28, 1925, in Stigler, Oklahoma to Roy and Edna Gilstrap.

Dallas was a longtime member of the Church of Christ. He served in World War II as an Aviation Radioman, third class, U.S. Navy. After his retirement from Farmers Insurance, he worked for Secure Horizons and BFMCo. He was a wonderful, kind and loving husband, Daddy, Grandpa and friend. He touched many lives and will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Benny Wayne Gilstrap.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Evelyn; a daughter, Rebecca, and son-in-law, Randy; a son, Danny, and daughter-in-law, Lyla; five grandchildren, Josh, Danny, Dana, Shelly and Phyllis; two sisters, Fleeta Nelson and Eloise Wiben; three brothers, Jack, John and Bob.

Brian Long Pham, Sr.

Brian Long Pham, Sr., 22, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma passed away Tuesday, January 8, 2003. He was born February 7, 1980 in Oklahoma City, the son of Sherry (McGuire) Beeler.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Beatrice “Marie” Roy, and his aunt, Patricia “Trit” Hadley.

Survivors include his mother and stepfather, Sherry and Calvin Beeler of Stigler, Oklahoma; one brother, Sean McGuire of Stigler; one son, Brian Pham, Jr. of Oklahoma City; grandfathers, Harold “Gene” McGuire of Sallisaw, Oklahoma and Mitchell “Red” Roy of Oklahoma City; a great-grandmother, Maxine Brammer of Keota, Oklahoma; three uncles, Harold McGuire, Jr. of Keota, and Charles McGuire and David Hadley of Oklahoma City; aunt, Janice McGuire of Oklahoma City; two stepbrothers, Michael Beeler of Pryor, Oklahoma and Rick Beeler of Tulsa, Oklahoma; one stepsister, Vanetta Beeler-Porter of Stigler; three great-uncles, Joe Bonaparte of Watts, Oklahoma, and Jerome Bonaparte and Rick Brammer of Keota; two great-aunts, Florence Treadway and Melvina Hooker of Keota, and 15 cousins.

He was loved and had lots of friends. He will be missed.



Roy Glenn “Buch” McComic

Roy Glenn “Buch” McComic, 80, passed away August 9, 2002 at his home in Norco, California. He was born June 29, 1922 in Hugo, Oklahoma.

Mr. McComic lived in Norco for 31 years. He was a lathe operator for Martindale Lathe and Plastering in Orange County for 25 years before he retired in 1987. He served in the U.S. Army from 1942 until 1945. He was a member of American Legion Post 328 in Norco.

Survivors include his wife, Marlene; a daughter, Jody Tinsley of Alabama; two sons, Michael of Riverside and Don Tinsley of Alabama; three grandchildren; a brother, Hal of Texas, and two sisters, Betty Jo Lanza of Arcadia and Helen Martindale of Anaheim.

Evelyn (Battiest) Winship

Evelyn (Battiest) Winship, 82, of Broken Bow, Oklahoma passed away Tuesday, January 28, 2003 at the Broken Bow Nursing Home. She was born July 25, 1920 in Oak Hill, the daughter of Eliase Carnes.

Evelyn was a homemaker and a member of Tohwal United Methodist Church. She enjoyed quilting, singing, attending church, and spending time with her family. She also enjoyed attending the Choctaw Nation Senior Citizens Group. She was a lifetime resident of Oak Hill.

She was preceded in death by lifelong companion, Anderson Winship; daughter, Gwendolyn Marie Battiest, and one granddaughter.

Survivors include five daughters and two sons-in-law, Barbara and Austin Battiest of Broken Bow, Una and Michael Harley of Idabel, Oklahoma, Oneida Winship of Durant, Oklahoma, Dennita Winship of Thackerville, Oklahoma and Venita Winship of Broken Bow; five stepchildren, one half-brother, one half-sister, 12 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, numerous step-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and friends.



Evelyn Lee Toubms

Evelyn Lee Toubms, 77, of Talihina, Oklahoma passed away Sunday, February 23, 2003 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. She was born on October 15, 1925 in Talihina to Bethel and Girdie Elliott-Anderson.

Evelyn attended Haskell Indian Institute in Lawrence, Kansas and received her LPN license at the Lawton Indian Hospital. She was a retired nurse of 30 years at the PHS Indian Hospital. She was a loving mother and grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Ethel Grace Escue, Delta Lawrence Anderson and Esther Lois Glenn, and three brothers, Tommy, Clifton and Everett Anderson.

Survivors include four children, Delta Elaine of Talihina, Eugenia Layman and husband, David, of Savoy, Texas, Jack Gilbert of Sandoval, Illinois and James Elliott of Wilburton, Oklahoma; four brothers, her twin, Edwin “Buddy” Anderson and wife, Joy, of Spiro, Oklahoma, Kenneth Anderson and wife, Ruthie, of Daisy, Oklahoma, Bill Anderson of Ponca City, Oklahoma, and Jerry Anderson and wife, Vernie, of Mansfield, Texas; seven grandchildren, Tiffany, Jared, Jessie and Tia Toubms and Michael, Shane and Misty Parks; five great-grandchildren, Cameron, Samantha, Jordan, Braden and Caitlynn, and many others who just loved to call her Granny Toubms, many loving nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Esther Mable (Motes) Waller

Esther Mable Waller, 88, of Utica, Oklahoma passed away Saturday, January 18, 2003 at Durant, Oklahoma. She was born November 9, 1914 in Allen, Oklahoma, the daughter of John Andrew Motes and Levina (Brown) Motes.

She married John “Jake” Waller in Oklahoma City in 1969.

Mrs. Waller was an employee in the Airplane Assembly Parts division at Tinker Air Force Base, OCO. She was a member of the Abundant Life Temple in Durant and was a volunteer with the Choctaw Nation after becoming a senior citizen. She loved to fish, work crossword puzzles and bake pies. She read her Bible daily.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, Elmer Thomas, and second husband, Jake Waller; brothers, Jeff, Hubert and George Motes, and sisters, Dora Parks, Mattie McElhaney, Mary Mitchell and Florence Herndon.

Survivors include numerous nieces, nephews and host of friends.

Mary Frances (Vail) Kuykendall

Mary Frances (Vail) Kuykendall passed away Thursday, January 16 in her home at Pueblo, Colorado.

She was a retired bookkeeper who enjoyed being a volunteer at the Chamber of Commerce Caboose, delivering meals on wheels, going to her craft and sewing clubs, and dancing at the Elks and Eagles.

She was a native of Atoka, Oklahoma, moving to Colorado in 1949. She met Chief Greg Pyle and staff members of the Choctaw Nation in Aurora, Colorado in 1999. She was proud of her Choctaw heritage.

Mrs. Kuykendall was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard; father, W.E. Vail; mother, Rosanna (Wallace) Vail; aunt, Laura (Ted) Copeland; brothers, Sam and Bill Vail; sister, Ivadell (Vail) Richardson Voss; and brother-in-law, Robert J. Ross.

Survivors include daughters, Carolyn Joy (Steve) Collette and Sally Jane Ferguson of Colorado; sister, Rosalie Vail (Robert) Ross of Eureka, California; four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and many, many friends.



Richard “Dick” Wright

Richard Howard “Dick” Wright, 74, of Vernon, Texas passed away Monday, December 2, 2002, in a Wichita Falls nursing center. He was born October 29, 1928 in Childress, Texas, a son of the late J.R. and Alta Semple Wright.

He married Jean Tisdale on March 24, 1954 in Dallas, Texas. She preceded him in death on April 17, 1984. He later married Patsy Parks in February 1987.

A graduate of Vernon High School and Texas Christian University, Mr. Wright served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He was an insurance agent with Brantley-Wright Insurance of Vernon and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, a 32nd degree Mason and member of Masonic Lodge No. 655 of Vernon, a past president of the Boys Club board of directors and a member of the Lions Club of Vernon, Community Concert Association, Random Club and Haney House.

A daughter, Betsy Wright Cates, preceded him in death in 1977.

Survivors include two sons, William Richard Wright of Katy, Texas and John Tisdale Wright of Vernon; a brother, Jim Wright of Vernon, and five grandchildren.

Brantly C. Nelson

Brantly C. Nelson, 78, passed away Sunday, January 26, 2003 at Marysville, California.

He was born August 16, 1924 at Antlers, Oklahoma.



Goldia Lois Phillips

Goldia Lois Phillips, 97, of Denison, Texas, passed away Sunday, February 9, 2003 at Texoma Medical Center in Denison. She was born September 23, 1905 in Kemp, Oklahoma, the daughter of Sam and Jessie Huey Turnbull. She attended schools in Kemp. On November 10, 1923, she married McArthur Phillips in Carpenter’s Bluff.

Mrs. Phillips had lived in Kemp for many years, in Houston, and had been a resident of Denison since 1965. She was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation and a charter member of the Order of Eastern Star Achille Chapter, now the Colbert Chapter #352. She was a member of East Baptist Church in Denison.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, McArthur Phillips on May 1, 1986, and eight brothers and sisters.

Survivors include her daughters, Gloria Sharp of Denison and Mackie Stokes of Kemp; sister, June Offer of San Antonio, Texas; brother, Darwin “Turp” Turnbull of Phoenix, Arizona; six grandchildren, Mary Jernigan of Tampa, Florida, Marty Little of Lewisville, Texas, Molly Sharp Beck of Kemp, Kyle Stokes of The Colony, Texas, Mona Swofford of Coppell, Texas, and Michelle Fluit of Little Elm, Texas; 13 great-grandchildren, Neile Vance of Montgomery, Texas, Taylor and Aaron Jernigan of Tampa, Brian Little of Kemp, Kristen Fitch of Denison, Kraig Beck of Seagoville, Texas, Kelli Shores of Achille, Kelvin and Kelsey Stokes of Lewisville, Jeff, Douglas and Matthew Swofford of Coppell, and Patrick Fluit of Little Elm; seven great-great-grandchildren, Jonah Vance of Montgomery, Brianne and Parker Little of Calera, Oklahoma, Courtney and Kaley Fitch of Denison, and Joel Glen and Ski Shores of Achille; numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Ann (Andrews) Hanan

Ann (Andrews) Hanan passed away after a lengthy illness on Sunday, March 2, 2003 at the age of 86. She was born March 10, 1916 in Hugo, Oklahoma to Walter H. and Emma (Kendrick) Andrews.

She attended school in Hugo where she graduated with honors. An accomplished pianist, she majored in music at the University of Oklahoma and was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority.

She married Calvin J. Hanan on June 26, 1937 in Hugo and they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary together in June 2002. After their marriage, Ann taught piano and organ lessons to numerous young students throughout the years. She was also active as an organist and choir member in her church. She retired from teaching in 1968.

Her parents and two brothers, Walter L. Andrews and Eugene H. Andrews, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband of the home, a son and daughter-in-law, C.J. “Jere” and Barbara Hanan of Bozeman, Montana; a daughter, Judith Smith of Lawton, Oklahoma; five grandchildren, Traci Youssi of Woodstock, Georgia, Jill Wolf and husband, Tom, of Anchorage, Alaska, Staci Johnson and husband, Greg, of Walters, Oklahoma, Steve Hanan of Tulsa, Piper Roberts of Austin, Texas, and nine great-grandchildren.



John James

The Rev. John James, 81, of Hugo, Oklahoma passed away Friday, March 7, 2003 at Choctaw Memorial Hospital in Hugo. He was born December 16, 1921 in Millerton, Oklahoma, the son of Raphael and Flossie “Box” James.

Rev. James married Lorena Fowler on April 5, 1941 in Millerton. He worked as a carpenter and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He served as a pastor for over 40 years, pioneering a church in Oregon and pastoring churches in DeQueen and Dierks, Arkansas; Woodland, Texas, and in Oklahoma at Mt. Zion Church, Messer Full Gospel Church and Sawyer Full Gospel Church. He was a member of the Soper Assembly of God Church.

Rev. James was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Jesse Raph James and Bud James, and two sisters, Florence Fowler and Marie Pruitt.

Survivors include his wife of the home; mother-in-law, Rena Fowler of Hugo, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Robert L. Raulston

Robert L. Raulston passed away Friday, January 31, 2003. He was born July 3, 1909 in Ft. Towson, Oklahoma.

Mr. Raulston was a farmer and rancher and lived most of his life within a mile of where he was born. He was a Baptist.

He lived in Columbus, Texas for a few years while working in the oil field business. For the past few years, he had lived in Laward, Texas with his daughter, Alva Bumpurs, and her husband, Tom.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Laura Nation Raulston; daughter, Bobbie Adams of Dallas, Texas, and his parents, M.V. and Maude Raulston.

Survivors include three children, Alva Bumpurs, Rita Evans of Port O’Connor, Texas and Dean Raulston of Benbrook, Texas; ten grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, nine great-great-grandchildren and a sister, Thelma Hajovsky of Columbus.



Nathan “Woody” Wilson

Nathan “Woody” Wilson, 60, of Ringold, Oklahoma passed away Sunday, February 23, 2003 at Wadley Regional Hospital in Texarkana, Texas. He was born October 10, 1942 in Ringold, the son of Alexander and Roda (Jefferson) Wilson.

Woody had lived in the Ringold area all of his life, worked as a brick mason, and had served in the U.S. Army as an Airborne paratrooper.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Alexander and Roy Wilson.

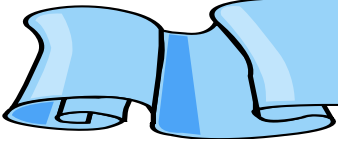
Survivors include two brothers, Carlo Wilson of Valliant, Oklahoma and Johnny Wilson of Ringold; three sisters, Theresa Wilson of California, Cora Faye Khort of Alaska and Ruby Jean White of Montana; several nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

Loren Leach

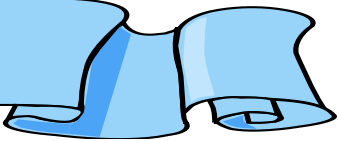
Loren Leach passed away September 7, 2002. He was born October 29, 1968.

Mr. Leach was preceded in death by his father, Mayes Leach.

Survivors include his best friend, “PO;” mother, Katherine Leach; sisters, Rebecca Chaparro and her husband, Jesus, Donna Pacheco and her husband, Albert, Floradean Ludlow and her husband, Boyd; aunts, uncles, numerous nieces and nephews, and friends and relatives.



OBITUARIES



Annis Irene (Roebuck) Hampton

Annis Irene (Roebuck) Hampton, 89, passed away Monday, January 13, 2003.

Mrs. Hampton loved the Lord and prayed earnestly for many to repent and be baptized in Jesus' Name. Besides her love of going to church, Irene loved to travel. She went on every trip the Choctaw Seniors of Coalgate organized and on many other trips to California and Oregon visiting relatives. Accompanied by her daughter, Kathy Smith, grandson, Jody, and granddaughter, Sheila, on one three-week trip, Irene traveled through 12 states. She walked on the Chisolm Trail in Kansas, saw the Royal Gorge in Colorado and the Old Faithful geyser in Wyoming, camped in the Teton Mountains in Wyoming, went up the Lava Mountain in Oregon and visited many other sites. She lived a wonderful life, was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Uel Nelson Hampton; parents, William and Annie Roebuck; two infant sons, Kenneth and Uel C. Hampton; four brothers, Sam, James, John "Jack" Roebuck and infant Leonard Roebuck.

Survivors include four daughters, Clover Riley and husband, Alfred, Janey Ybarra and husband, Manuel, Emma Vick and Kathy Smith, all of Olney, Oklahoma; four sons, Uel N. Hampton, Jr. and wife, Louise, of Oklahoma City, Eddie Hampton and wife, Mattie, and Johnny Hampton and wife, Diane, all of Olney, and Marvin Hampton and wife, Julia, of Coalgate; two sisters, Thelma Blackwell and Jewel D. Jackson, both of Riverdale, California; one brother, Robert Roebuck of Olney, 29 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild and one on the way. Irene also left many, many friends, nieces, nephews and other family members too numerous to mention and her Church family at the Jesus Name Mission of Olney.



Wilson "Clam" Taylor, Jr.

Wilson "Clam" Taylor, Jr. of Antlers, Oklahoma passed away Saturday, February 8, 2003. He was born April 18, 1954.

Wilson had been a resident of Antlers all of his life. He was a member of the Goodwater United Methodist Church where he served as a Lay Speaker and was active with the "Methodist Men." He enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. He loved his large family and was deeply loved by all of them. He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Rubye Taylor of the home; children, Ryan Taylor and Priscilla Martin Oldham, both of Moyers, Candice Taylor Rogers and Bryan Taylor, both of Antlers, and Caleb, Kirk and Byington Taylor of the home; brothers, Jessie Taylor of Sobol, Oklahoma, Steve Taylor of Hugo, Oklahoma, John Taylor of Antlers and Rayburn Taylor of Rattan, Oklahoma; sisters, Velma Whisenhunt of Gilliam, Arkansas, Karen Burt and Brenda Haycraft, both of Antlers, Ava Hilton of Albion, Oklahoma and Phyllis Bohanon of Sobol; grandmother, Ida Taylor of Sobol; seven grandchildren, Ariel, Vanessa, Paisley, Payton, Eryn, Camryn and Brianna, and one on the way, and two special nieces, Jennifer Davidson and Sequina Cogburn.

Two brothers, Kurt A. Taylor and Jefferson L. Taylor, preceded him in death.

A Special Thank You ...

We would like to take this time and opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to all the ones who called, brought food or just came by to sit with us during our time of need. To our special friends, Chief Greg Pyle, Shannon McDaniel, Randy Hammons and staff, and Gary Batton, you were very dear friends to Wilson. Thank you so much for everything you have done for him. Ross Winship and Donna Courtwright for being there to help us through. Wilson has fought a long battle with cancer. It has been a long journey for him and we will surely miss him. But God decided it was time for him to come home and we are at peace for at last he is cancer-free. Thank you so much. — Rubye Taylor and kids and the Taylor family.



Rita Ishcomer

Funeral services were held June 4, 2002 for Rita Ishcomer. Rita was born March 16, 1960 in Hugo, Oklahoma.

She lived in the Sobol and Ringold, Oklahoma area most of her life until she moved to California. She had recently moved back to Oklahoma.

Rita enjoyed doing good deeds for the church and listening to gospel music. She was a loving and caring wife, sister and daughter. Rita enjoyed life, always smiling or grinning with a great sense of humor. She was a big sports fan of the Dallas Cowboys and Sacramento Kings.

She was preceded in death by grandmothers, Susanna Wickson and Josephine Ishcomer, and grandfathers, Daniel Ishcomer and Dave Wickson.

Survivors include her loving parents, Leroy and Ethel Ishcomer of Sobol; husband, Ike Snavelly, and daughters, Keanna Fuente and Jada Ishcomer, of Swink; brothers, Leroy, Jr. and wife, Glenda, of Ada, Oklahoma, and Robert, Johnny, Julius and Neil of Sobol; sisters, Linda and husband, Harold Cannon, of Antlers, Oklahoma, Lena and husband, Jean Priddy, of Ft. Towson, Oklahoma, Mary and husband, Turner Woody, of Ashdown, Arkansas, and Sara and Don Kuykendall of Sobol; several aunts and uncles, James Laflore and Sonny Wickson, both of Hugo, Fred Wickson of Frogville, Holiston Wickson of Garvin, Ray Wickson of Ft. Towson, Curtis Ishcomer of Altus, Nathan Ishcomer of Quanah, Texas, Melvin Ishcomer of Eldorado, Oklahoma, Anita Ishcomer of Texas, Freda of Dodd City, Texas, Carolyn Cushion of Harrah, Oklahoma, Gladys Wickson of Rufe, Oklahoma, Annie Wickson of Hugo, Judy Phillips of Goodland, Oklahoma; five nephews, Jacob, T.J., and Josh Woody of Ashdown, Perry Cannon of Antlers and Eric Ishcomer of Broken Bow; two nieces, Cheryl Ishcomer and Corey Cannon, both of Antlers, and one grandchild, Aileyea Marie Brown.

Angielene "Jean" Chambers

Angielene Jeanette "Jean" Chambers of Ore City, Texas passed away Sunday, February 23, 2003 in Longview, Texas. She was born February 14, 1923 in Sulphur, Oklahoma to Andrew and Celia Cox Goforth.

Mrs. Chambers, an area resident since 1984, was a homemaker, caring deeply for her family.

Survivors include her husband, Emmett Chambers of Ore City; a daughter, Rebecca Blasingame and her husband, George, of Longview; a son, Fred Chambers and his wife, Donna, of Carrollton, Texas; six grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren; six sisters, Marie Lynch, Virginia Batson, Ellen Green, Helen Goforth, Lorene Randall and Frankie Church.

George Henry Shorb

George Henry Shorb, 85, of Temple, Texas passed away Friday, March 7, 2003. He was born in Claypool, Oklahoma and was raised and educated in McAlester, Oklahoma. He was a resident of the Central Texas area since 1956.

Mr. Shorb served in the U.S. Army for 22 years and was a World War II and Korean War Veteran. After retirement from the army in 1965, he worked for the Killeen Independent School District (KISD) from 1969 until his retirement in 1981. For the last nine years he taught Building Trades in the Vocational Department of KISD. He also served as board member and volunteer for the Stillhouse Fire Department, and was on the Board of Directors for Sherwood Shores Association VI and VIII as Secretary/Treasurer.

Mr. Shorb was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia J. Shorb, in 1989; his brother, Charles Evans, and sister, Edna Moore.

Survivors include two sons and their wives, Dale and Anita Shorb of Aurora, Colorado and Thomas and June Shorb of Phoenix, Arizona; a daughter and her husband, Charles and Sharon J. Taylor of Salado, Texas; eight grandchildren, Amy Shorb of Portage, Indiana, Andrea Garcia and husband, Herman, of Phoenix, Bryan Shorb of Wichita, Kansas, Kelly Shorb and husband, Rafael DePaz, Karlyn Shorb, Katie Shorb, Adrian Shorb and Derek Shorb, all of Aurora, and four great-grandchildren, Tatiana, Talya and Rafael (IV) DePaz of Aurora and Joel Garcia of Phoenix.

His stories, teaching and wisdom will be greatly missed and never forgotten, for he lives forever in our hearts.

Mary Palestine (Shoemake) Mills

Mary Palestine (Shoemake) Mills, 95, known by the kids in Boswell, Oklahoma as "Mou Mou Mills," passed away on Sunday, March 2, 2003 at her home in Boswell. She was born December 18, 1907 in Bennington, Oklahoma.

Mary was a member of the Boswell First Baptist Church, moving her letter from the First Baptist Church in Lane, Oklahoma when she moved to Boswell in 1976. She had been a postmaster for 30 years, 20 at Crystal and 10 at Lane, Oklahoma. She had worn many hats — postmaster, storekeeper, wife, mother, and trapper for fur in New Mexico and Oklahoma with her husband in the 1920s, as well as helping her husband in his businesses where they bought roots, herbs and tree bark for many years. They shipped the herbs and bark to St. Louis Commission Company in St. Louis, Missouri to make medicines.

Mary was a very independent person insisting on living alone, writing her own checks and keeping up with her checkbook right to the very end.

The last time Mary saw Dr. Ellis in Antlers he said, "Ms. Mills, I believe you're going to live to be a ripe old age." She was 95. She replied, "Why would I want to," more as a statement than a question.

Mary was the last surviving member of 11 children born to Joseph Eugene "Gene" Shoemake and Estella Hutcherson Shoemake who predeceased her. She was also preceded in death by three children, Gayla, Rosalie and Scarlet Mills, and her husband, W.R.S. "Will" Mills, Sr. She had lost her sister, Clara Self of Soper, exactly one month before her passing. Other siblings were Alma Halcomb, Lowell Shoemake, Alonzo Shoemake, Adelia (Debo) Burke, Opal Wood, Jo Ella Sudreth and an infant sister and brother, Ben and Mildred.

Survivors include three daughters, Marlene Campo of Boswell, Shirley Toombs of Oklahoma City and Velma Althoff of Norman, Oklahoma; one son, W.R.S. "Billy" Mills, Jr. of Euless, Texas; 13 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Delores Plumlee

Delores Plumlee, 74, of Salina, Oklahoma passed away Friday, March 14, 2003 in Salina. She was born May 4, 1928 in Tupelo, Oklahoma.

Delores had lived in Salina since 1981, moving there from Pryor, Oklahoma. She attended school in Tupelo, graduating from Tupelo High School in 1947. Delores worked for Phoenix Federal Savings and Loan and retired in 1985. She had been Head Loan Officer, Vice President and Assistant Manager during her employment with Phoenix Federal. She was a member of the VFW Auxiliary, a lifetime member of the DAV Auxiliary, and a member of the Pryor Apostolic Church.

Delores married Blackie Plumlee on October 13, 1981 in Miami, Oklahoma. She enjoyed crocheting, gardening and was an avid fisherwoman. She was most proud of her family. Her children and grandchildren meant everything to her and she will be greatly missed by all.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Henry and Jessie Landis; first husband, Marvin Joe Teel; brothers, Alvin Landis, Orval Landis, Davie Landis and Lee Landis; sisters, Thelma Cranfield and Nadine Harmen, and son-in-law, Delbert Wood.

Survivors include her husband, Blackie (Raymond) Plumlee of the home; sons, Joe Don Teel and wife, Sharla, of Adair, Oklahoma and Raymond Plumlee and wife, Myrtle, of Claremore, Oklahoma; daughters, Judy Wood of Pryor, Judith Castor and husband, Kenneth, of San Antonio, Texas and Gwendolyn Edith Plumlee, and a brother, Gail Landis of Tennessee.

Justin Daniel McAnally

Justin Daniel McAnally, 81, passed away Monday, March 3, 2003 at the home of his son in Gilroy, California. He was born May 21, 1921 in Stuart, Oklahoma, the son of J.W. and Mattie (Daniels) McAnally, an original enrollee of the Choctaw tribe.

Justin graduated from Stuart High School. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps before World War II, was trained as a pilot and bombardier, achieved the rank of Captain, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his outstanding service during 62 missions while based in Italy.

After his honorable discharge he began a long career in electronics. He was employed by Chance-Vought in Grand Prairie, Texas, where he worked on the Regulus Guided Missile, a U.S. Navy project. Later, he moved to Marietta, Georgia, and was in charge of all electronics at the Lockheed facility. Still later, he worked for Lockheed in Sunnyvale, California, where he was instrumental in the success of the Discoverer Satellite Program. He was also involved in many other projects which are too numerous to mention.

After Justin retired from business, he enjoyed building his own airplane in the garage of his home in Saratoga, California, and flying the sleek, Glasair two-seater on several trips to Oklahoma, Montana and other locations. He was a master carpenter, electronics expert, and a perfectionist in all projects which he undertook.

His parents and a son, Paul Oien, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Myrtle (Matlock) McAnally of Gilroy; son, Justin Dale McAnally and wife, Patricia, of Gilroy; granddaughter, Sheila Ganyard of Incline Village, Nevada; two brothers, Gene McAnally and wife, Lorice, of Daphne, Alabama, and Roger McAnally and wife, Nancy, of Coalgate, Oklahoma; sister, Juna Shaw of Weatherford, Oklahoma; a beloved aunt, Letha Reed of McAlester, Oklahoma; and many nephews, nieces and friends.

Justin was respected, admired and well loved. He will be greatly missed.

Vera Mae Workman Franco

Vera Mae (Workman) Franco, 63, passed away Wednesday, February 26, 2003. A longtime resident of El Paso, Texas, Vera Mae dedicated her time to her family and home.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Asuncion Franco, and parents, Thomas Jefferson and Nora Mae Workman.

Survivors include sons, David, Carlos and Steven Franco; daughters, Cynthia and Rebecca Franco; grandchildren, Crystal, Jessica, Samantha, Marco, Stevie and Isabela; brothers, Harvey and Amos Workman, and sisters, Bonnie and Joanne Smith.



McArthur "Mack" Bruner

McArthur "Mack" Bruner passed away December 29, 2001. He was born November 9, 1942 in the Leader Community to Charley Bruner and Pernie (Colbert) Bruner. He was reared in Wewoka, Oklahoma and attended Nobletown, Johnson Grove and Douglass High School.

At an early age he united with the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and was baptized. After moving to Oklahoma City, he united with the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church under the leadership of Minister Wilbur Bruner. Mack enjoyed working on cars, hunting, fishing and sitting around talking about old times. He worked for the First National Bank in downtown Oklahoma City for many years. He was also a very good mechanic.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and three sisters.

Survivors include four brothers, David Bruner, Willis Bruner and Fred Bruner, all of Oklahoma City, and Bobby Bruner of Wewoka; ten sisters, Victorine Simmons of Houston, Texas, Maedean Carolina, Rena Alford, Ola Faye Bruner and Dorothy Bruner, all of Wewoka, and Corine Bruner, Asylene Bruner, Rose Bruner, Linda Bruner and Ellen Roberts, all of Oklahoma City; 61 nieces and nephews, a host of great-nieces and great-nephews, two uncles, four aunts and a host of cousins, a very special friend, Jennifer Brown, and a host of friends.

Ralph Ward Beal

Ralph Ward Beal passed away Thursday, February 27, 2003. He was born July 19, 1931 in Kilgore, Texas to Stella and Coleman W. Beal.

Ralph served in the Army Airborne Division during the Korean Conflict, graduated Crozier Tech High School in Dallas, Texas in 1950, was educated at North Texas State University, and was currently an independent safety consultant for Texan Electric, Shamrock Ferrell Construction in Houston, Texas, as well as numerous other companies and was highly regarded in his field. He also derived great pleasure from the association with the people affiliated with those organizations. He was also a member of the Tannehill Masonic Lodge in Dallas and was very generous to those less fortunate.

His parents preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Kathleen; three children, Randy Beal and wife, Letty, Brenda Lacombe and husband, Sidney, and Greg Beal and wife, Gina; and six grandchildren whom he loved dearly. He is also survived by three brothers and lifelong companions, Gordon, Will and Wiley, and their wives and families.



Paul A. Tidwell

Paul A. Tidwell, 77, of Amarillo, Texas passed away Tuesday, December 10, 2002. He was born December 15, 1924 in Banty, Oklahoma. He moved to Amarillo in 1950.

Mr. Tidwell was a veteran of the World War II Korean occupation. He was a retired roofing contractor.

Survivors include his wife, Charlene; his children, Zandra Schooler, Anna Tidwell, "Smokey" Tidwell and wife, Frances, Roger Tidwell, Anthony Tidwell, Paula Morris and husband, Joe, Cathy Ferguson and husband, Kenneth, Stephanie Tidwell, Shannon Tidwell and Max Tidwell and wife, Angela, all of Amarillo; his grandchildren, Devon and Amy Lambert of San Antonio, Texas, Sundie Morris, Rachel Tidwell, Jake Ferguson, Jennifer and Jessica and their mother, Linda Tidwell, Callie Morris, Noah Keever, Mary Alyce Tidwell, Skylar Abel, Sara Tidwell and Sydney Tidwell; a great-grandchild, Zoe Grace Morris; and three brothers, Billy Joe Lee and wife, Gloria, of Brownfield, Ray Tidwell and wife, Bea, of Durant, Oklahoma and Charles Tidwell and wife, Margie, of Bokchito, Oklahoma.

Georgia Delilah Luce

Georgia Delilah Luce passed away July 29, 2002. She was born November 12, 1931 in Durant, Oklahoma, the daughter of Richard Lawrence Luce of Texas and Vera Fay Hill of Oklahoma and the sister of Bess Zoe Brough.

Georgia traced her Choctaw ancestry through her great-great-grandmother, Nancy Black, who walked the Trail of Tears with her husband, Buckholtz Null. On that long walk, she gave birth to a daughter while crossing the Pearl River and so named her daughter, Pearl. Pearl married Jesse Human and their daughter, Zoe, married Grandville Ghoul Hill. Zoe and Grandville's daughter was named Vera Fay Hill. Vera Hill was an original enrollee and the mother of Georgia Delilah Luce.

Georgia was a horticulturist and everyone seeing her glorious garden felt surely she should charge an admission. Her garden is a botanical paradise and a wonder to behold. Luckily, she was also an avid photographer so her wondrous garden is documented for all time.

Survivors include her daughters, Cathy, Sandra, Nancy and Zoe, and her sons, Rodger and Richard. She was very proud of her 14 grandchildren, Michael, Timothy, Jasmine, Amber, Autumn, Jack, Dylan, Roger, Rachel, Ritchie, Carl, Jamie, Jessica and Brad, and also her great-grandsons, Gregory and Louis.

She was first and foremost a mother and loved her children dearly.

Walter Allen Humphrey

Walter Allen Humphrey, 67, of Corning, California passed away March 10, 2003 in Chico, California. He was born September 30, 1936 in Ryan, Oklahoma.

Mr. Humphrey served his country in the U.S. Navy, then later retired from dry wall construction. He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage. He enjoyed gardening, traveling and visiting with friends and family.

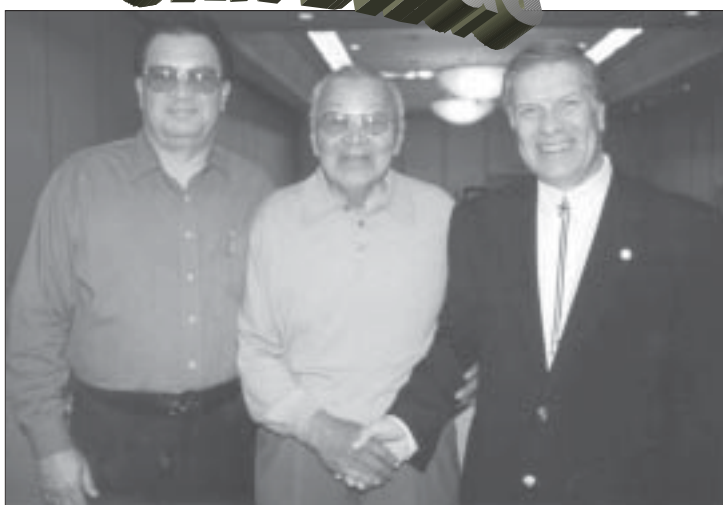
Survivors include his wife, Jackie Humphrey of Corning; sons, Walt, Jr. and Wally; daughters, Dannette Davidson, Charlene MacAlpine and Robin Brown; stepchildren, Tom Bust and Debbie Moore; 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and six brothers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and two brothers.

SAN DIEGO



Joe Boatright greets Chief Gregory Pyle at the meeting held recently in San Diego.



Chief Pyle welcomes Lewis and Moses Wesley.



One of the newest members of the tribe, Alyssa, along with parents Billy and Andrea Harrison, meet Chief Pyle.



Cookie and Don Ayles enjoy visiting with Chief Pyle.



Nathan Highfield is awarded for providing lots of help with the door prizes.



Sandy Van Der Linden of Hemet, California and Barbara Carnes of Medford, Oregon are happy to talk with Chief Pyle and staff.



Yvonne Davis Farris of El Cajon and Chief Pyle.



Isabel and Bethany Solano of Merino Valley, California.

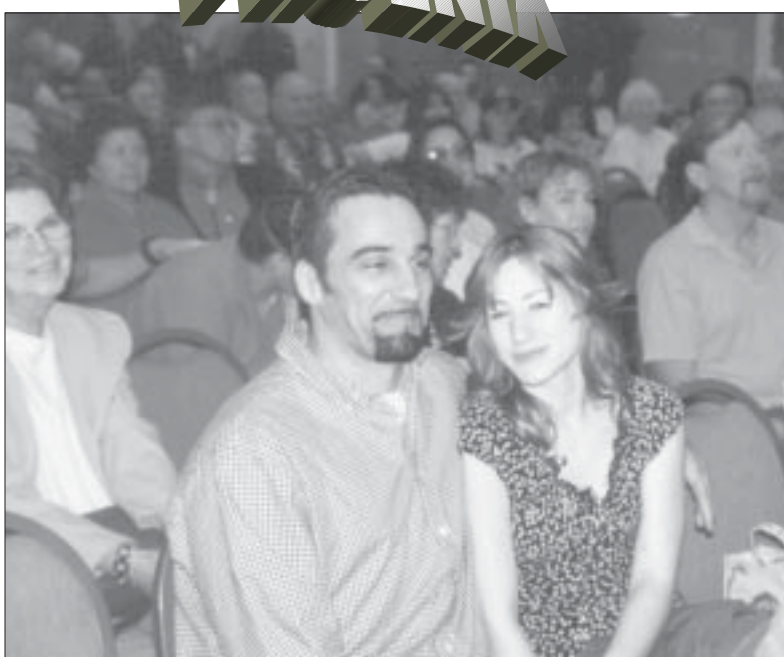


The Hughes family is pictured with Chief Pyle – Lori, Robert, Jr., Robert, Sr., Helen, Bucky Lee and John.

PHOENIX



Nickki and Ruby Mandelin and Chief Gregory Pyle enjoy the Phoenix meeting.



Evelyn and Jennifer Wilkerson are among the visitors signing in and being assisted by Sue Folsom.



Linda Conaway and Randa Brumbaugh, the granddaughter and daughter of District 6 Councilperson Randle Durant, attended the meeting in Phoenix.



Chief Pyle visits with Jeff, Micah and Sandy Ryan. Jeff was the architect for the Choctaw Inn in Durant.



Trinity and Halyn Parsons of Peoria, Arizona have comfortable seats.



Having a good time are Ken Bounds, Chuck Bounds, Larry Crane, Gary Ramazezi, Travis Bounds and Dan Jeffers.



Micaela Gardner and Chief Pyle.