



BISHINIK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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April 2004 Issue

The Choctaw Nation mourns

Charley Jones

September 23, 1917 - March 10, 2004

Charley Jones, age 86, of Idabel, passed away Wednesday, March 10, 2004 at Idabel. He was born September 23, 1917, in Honobia, Oklahoma.

Jones served three terms as District #1 Tribal Councilman for the Choctaw Nation, retiring this past September. He was widely known by others within the Choctaw and non-Indian community because of his volunteerism and cultural activities. Charley had a long career serving Native American people, working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service.

Jones was recognized across the world as an expert on Choctaw history, and was a guest speaker at many events in Oklahoma and surrounding states, in California and overseas as a Choctaw Ambassador to France. Many of his stories have been published in both the English and Choctaw languages, and he assisted in writing some of the first books printed by the Choctaw Nation to teach the native language.

Pleasures in life for Jones included spending time with his family and friends, hunting and fishing.

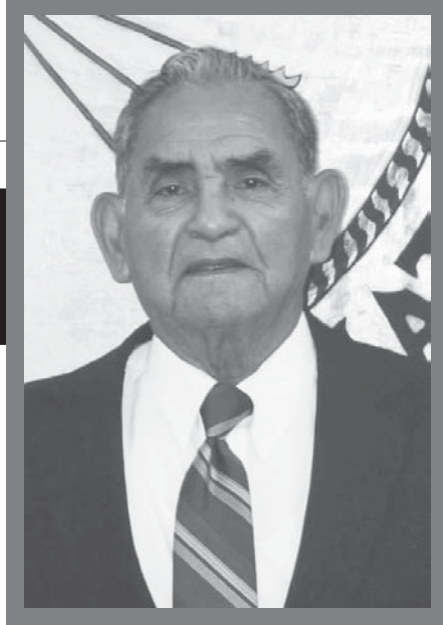
In 1991, the Distinguished Service Award from the McCurtain County Historical Society was presented to Jones for his contributions in preserving Choctaw heritage and culture. Jones served as a Judge in Tribal Court, and in 1991 began a 12-year span as an elected official on the Tribal Council representing Choctaws in South McCurtain County. Wheelock Academy was in his district, and he volunteered many hours to mowing and cleaning the grounds.

Jones served on the Arkansas Riverbed Authority, was a former Secretary of the Tribal Council and Chaplain of the Tribal Council, and volunteered on many other committees that offered support and oversight to tribal services and programs.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robinson and Caroline McGee Jones; brothers, Perry Jones and Hanson Jones; sisters, Myrtle Billy, Dorena Slinker, and Ruthie Boling.

Charley Jones is survived by his wife, Louellon Jones of Idabel; daughter, Caroline Jones of Idabel; son, Charley George Jones, Jr., of Sacramento, California; grandchildren, Cary Glenn Pugh, Jerry Ray Pugh, and Larry Dale Pugh, all of Idabel, and Paul Kevin Jones of San Antonio, Texas; great-grandchildren, Shaina Hampton, Crystal Pugh, Wendy Pugh, Jamie Pugh, Kayla Pugh, and Josh Jones; great-great-grandchild, Slade Coleman; several nieces, nephews, numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

As a tribute to Charley Jones, the new "super-clinic" being constructed by the Choctaw Nation in Idabel will bear the name "Charley Jones Indian Health Clinic."



Randle Durant

December 27, 1921 - March 18, 2004

Randle Durant passed away March 18, 2004, at the age of 82. Serving as Tribal Councilman since 1983, Randle was devoted to providing assistance to Native American people and the communities in his district. He was born on December 27, 1921, in Bennington, Oklahoma, to Frank and Ruby (Folsom) Durant. He attended Belvin School in Boswell, St. Agnes Academy in Ardmore and Goodland School (then known as an Indian orphanage) in Hugo.

He was very proud of his years of service in the military, and joined the Oklahoma National Guard when he was only 16. In 1940, Durant enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving for 11 years and seeing action in both World War II and Korea.

Durant married Margaret Hoopes on April 7, 1958, and began working at the Gila River Reservation in Sacatone, Arizona. He was a dietitian at the Indian Health Service hospital and the Director of the WIC program on that reservation.

Returning to Oklahoma in 1979, Durant was elected to the position of District #6 Tribal Councilman just a few years later. Six of those years, Durant served as the Speaker of the Tribal Council and President of Choctaw Nation Enterprises.

Durant's faith was very important to him, serving as Branch President for ten years for the Latter Day Saints Church and also as a High Priest of the Church.

Randle Durant's name is known across the globe as a representative and ambassador of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, including a visit to the President of Ireland in 1993. He was a member of the Inter-Tribal Council and worked for several years on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Committee. He was also a past Silver Haired Legislator in Oklahoma. Durant was always willing to volunteer his time for the benefit of the tribe, his church, and his Senior Citizen's group. His reputation as a cook and tribal advocate was well known. He was proud to serve on committees within the Choctaw Nation, including the Hospital Board, Labor Day Committee and Gaming Commission. One of the most recent contributions made by Durant was the publication of a book "Footsteps of a Durant Choctaw," that highlights his and his family's life, as well as contains a great deal of history of the tribe.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Grace of the home; three daughters, Linda LaBove of Rockford, Illinois, Randa Brumbough of Phoenix, Arizona, and Lora Crawford of Mesa, Arizona; one son, Randle L. Durant of Winnemucca, Nevada; ten grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Ruby Mae Spradling; one brother, Willie Sim Durant; and one daughter, Jane Illa Hamilton.



A familiar site – Councilman Durant loved to cook for the people of his district and for tribal events. (1994)



Two of the best ambassadors of the Choctaw Nation, Charley Jones and Randle Durant greet the president of Ireland, Mary Robinson. (1996)

Naming of centers reflects tribe's respect

The 12 members of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council have unanimously agreed to name the newly constructed Indian Health Clinic in Idabel, Oklahoma, in memory of former Choctaw Councilman Charley Jones. The Charley Jones Health Clinic will staff 90 people and will offer family practice, optometry, physical therapy, dental, lab, X-ray and pharmacy. There will also be a diabetic component at the Idabel facility.

As a tribute in memory of Councilman Randle Durant, the Choctaw Community Center in Wilburton will be named the Randle Durant Choctaw Center.

Also during March's regular session, councilmembers authorized funds to help support the Native American Junior Golf Camp 2004, sponsored by the Choctaw Nation and Chickasaw Nation. Approximately 75 youth between the ages of 8 and 18 will be able to attend the five-day camp to be held May 31-June 4 at Chickasaw Pointe Golf Resort at Lake Texoma.

Other council bills passed include utilizing funds to complete renovations of cement work for parking at the Heavener Travel Mart; approving certain transactions between Choctaw Management/Services Enterprise, Backstretch, L.L.C., Choctaw Nation Enterprises, Inc., and First United Bank and Trust Co., and authorizing use of funds to complete construction of the FY 2003 Community Development Block Grant project.



Councilman Jones is pictured with Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey and citizens of District 1 after receiving a new bus for senior citizens. (1999)



Letters

Choctaw smiles on dental staff

Dear Choctaw Nation dental department,
 I wanted to say “thank you” very much to Sherman Wilson, Sandra McKinney, Kathy Holcomb and Stephen Simmons for giving me back a beautiful smile and self-esteem.
 You people at the Nation are wonderful. May God bless you.
Mary Ann Frazier
 Petty, Texas

Student strives for excellence

Dear Choctaw Nation,
 Thank you for helping me pursue my education at Oklahoma State University through your scholarship program. The funds are greatly appreciated and have encouraged me to strive for excellence. I am on the Dean’s Honor Roll with a GPA of 3.71.
Kari Rowe
 Eufaula, Oklahoma

Christmas, birthday cards appreciated

Dear Chief Pyle,
 I always appreciate the cards from the tribe as they are always so pretty and depicting nature or Native Americans. Thanks so much for taking the time to write Christmas and birthday cards. I really enjoy the holiday greetings and I love the artwork on the cards.
Jessica Dodson
 South Bend, Indiana

Student pursuing dual major

Dear Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department,
 Thank you for the scholarship to continue my educational endeavor. I am currently a student at Cerritos College in the process of transferring to California State University Long Beach with a dual major in Philosophy and American History. I am a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. I am the grandson of the late Eddie Brown, an original enrollee, for whom I deeply appreciate making this possible.
Vaden Scott York
 Downey, California



Expression of sympathy

Dear Editor,
 Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the dearly departed, Darrell W. Hudson. He will sadly be missed.
Virgil B. David Greenwood
 Finley, Oklahoma

Searching for information

Dear Editor,
 I am the daughter of Mary Lee Whitaker of Broken Bow, daughter of Emma Whitaker of Antlers, daughter of Lucy Baldwin Case of Pauls Valley, daughter of George W. Baldwin and Jane Tony. I am at this point in my research and cannot seem to advance any further without someone’s help. I know that G.W. Baldwin lived long enough after Jane Toney died to have more children, ten in total. I would love to hear from anyone out there who knew them or are related and could exchange information on the family. I have lots of information on the Case family.
Hazel Mitchell
 46 Walker Road
 Crane, MO 65633
 cmuttz04@yahoo.com

Traditional Choctaw hogs

Dear Editor,
 I am trying to locate someone who still raises traditional Choctaw hogs. I am interested in the breed and would like to purchase some.
David Bowman
 RR 1 Box 10360
 Foster, OK 73434



Spring Festival cancelled for 2004
 Due to construction, the annual Spring Festival will not be held at Wheelock Academy. Necessary repairs to Wheelock’s buildings are expected to be completed by 2005.

Gregory E. Pyle
 Chief

Mike Bailey
 Assistant Chief

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

Dear Editor,
 This photo was recently given to me by a family member and we know it is of our relatives from Oklahoma. We are having a hard time with their names, though. The picture of these young Choctaw women dates from around the mid to late 1940s. They probably lived in northern Choctaw or southern Pushmataha counties. One family member thought they may have been known as the “Mudsand Girls,” the “Buckhorn Trio” or the “Lively Ladies.” Any response would be appreciated. Please call (806) 922-5479.

Wanda McKee

A heart-warming thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,
 Thanks for the help in my mom’s situation. The following people made it possible for me to be closer to the hospital. Thank you to Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Charlene Grunstad. This wouldn’t have been possible without the caring people of the Choctaw Nation.
 The family gives you all a special prayer and thank you. May God bless you,

The family of Elba (Knight) Smith



Atoka center holds beading class

A beading class is being held every Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Atoka. More students are joining each week to learn how to make earrings, bracelets, the brick stitch, and Choctaw necklaces. The class, instructed by Chris and Ruth Laws, will also cover loom stitch, lazy stitch and porcupine quill work. Students include Martha DeWitt, Rose Bates, Rosemary Bohanon, Jackie Bohanon, Naomi Yother, Loretta Cooper, Amanda Phillips, Maxine and Butch Wilson, Elaine Ponca, Ramona Puckett, Cindy and Reese Wallis and Mary Wilson.

Dear Chief Pyle,
 I just want to let you know that I am attending the beading class in Atoka. Mr. and Mrs. Chris Laws are wonderful and really nice teachers. It’s great that they are teaching us something new and fascinating about our culture and I really do enjoy the beading class so much.
 Thank God for people like Ruthie and Chris who want to help other people out.

Rosemary Bohanon

Dear Chief Pyle,
 I want to thank you for making it possible to have this beading class. I enjoy it very much. I’ve always wanted to learn to bead. Now I can. Thank you for the help. You are doing a good job and Mr. and Mrs. Laws are doing a good job here.

Rose Bates

Seeking Army buddy

Dear Editor,
 I became friends with Jim Williston when I served in the Army’s 4th Division in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. I am trying to reach the men I served with. I have some pictures that Williston is in. I would like to send him copies if he is interested.
 Thank you for any help you can provide.

Michael Willenbecher
 985-a Limekiln Pike
 Ambler, PA 19002-2324

Talihina’s 2nd Annual Homecoming

The Talihina Alumni Association will host its 2nd Annual Homecoming on May 29. In conjunction with this event will be the All School Reunion. Events will begin at 7:30 a.m. with registration for the reunion and breakfast. At 10 a.m. the Main Street activities will begin with arts and crafts, games and food booths of all kind. The parade is at 2 p.m. and at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria will be a banquet with a Hee-Haw Comedy/Talent Show at 7:30 p.m. The street dance kicks off at 9 p.m.

Registration is \$15 per person which includes banquet and entertainment. Bring your lawn chairs so that you can sit and relax in the Downtown Park and take in the sounds.

If you are a past employee, student or graduate of Talihina Public School system, please contact the Talihina Alumni Association so that we can get an approximate count of persons to accommodate for the banquet and breakfast.

The theme for the reunion is “Remember When.” We will be remembering persons since the first graduation in 1922 to the present 2003 graduates.

For more information, contact Terry Transue at 918-567-4040 or Jackie England at 918-567-2285.

Ceremony to unveil marker at Code Talker’s gravesite

A special ceremony celebrating the unveiling of a tombstone marking the place of rest for World War I Choctaw Code Talker James M. Edwards will be held at 4 p.m. April 20 at the James-Folsom Cemetery at Whitesboro, Oklahoma.
 The granite marker was placed at the grave site recently, thanks to inquiries and requests sent to the Department of Defense by Tribal Judge Juanita Jefferson. She said she was visiting the grave of some of her relatives and noticed that a permanent marker had never been placed at Edwards’ plot. As a veteran, Edwards was eligible for a stone, free of cost.
 The ceremony on April 20 will feature the presentation of a Presidential Citation by Chief Gregory E. Pyle to Edwards’ son, James Edwards. The Choctaw Color Guard and Choctaw Singers also will participate in the program. Invited speakers include Rev. Bertram Bobb, Speaker Kenny Bryant and Major General Leroy Sisco.
 The public is invited to attend the unveiling.

Princess Pageants

DISTRICT 7
 Applications are being accepted for the District 7 Choctaw Princess Pageant to be held at 6 p.m. May 22 at the Choctaw Senior Citizen Community Center in Antlers. Applications may be picked up at the Antlers or the Wright City Field Office. For more information, please contact Oma Nell Clay at 580-298-6325, Virginia Hammons at 580-298-5501, or Susan Skelton at 580-981-7011. Deadline for applications is May 14.

DISTRICT 9
 Applications are being accepted for the District 9 Choctaw Princess Pageant to be held on the Durant Courthouse lawn at 5 p.m. June 4 during the Magnolia Festival. Choctaw girls who are interested in running in the District 9 pageant can make application by calling Kay Jackson or Martha Polk at Choctaw Nation, 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2203 or 2326. Deadline for applications is April 30.

- Eligibility requirements include –*
- Miss District Choctaw Nation:**
1. Resident of the Choctaw Nation
 2. Single, never married and no dependents
 3. Between the ages of 18 and 23
 4. A high school graduate (or will graduate by June 2003)
 5. One-sixteenth (1/16) Choctaw or more
 6. All participants must be the required age on or before the pageant in Tushka Homma
- Miss District Choctaw Nation Junior Princess:**
1. Resident of the Choctaw Nation
 2. Single, never married and no dependents
 3. Between the ages of 13-17
 4. One-sixteenth (1/16) Choctaw or more
 5. All participants must be required age on or before the pageant in Tushka Homma
- Miss District Choctaw Nation Little Miss Princess:**
1. Resident of the Choctaw Nation
 2. Between the ages 8-12
 3. One-sixteenth (1/16) Choctaw or more
 4. All participants must be the required age on or before the pageant in Tushka Homma

Reunions

Moore
 There will be a family reunion on Saturday, May 22, for descendants of Joseph G. Moore. It will be held at the Little City Baptist Church in Little City, Oklahoma. It starts at 8 a.m. and lasts as long as folks want to stay. It is four miles to the cemetery and will be easy to visit throughout the day for those who want to go. For more information, please call Ron Moore, 940-825-4046 or e-mail ronart24@aol.com.

Ritter/McCoy
 The Ritter/McCoy family reunion will be May 29 at Quarry Island on Wister Lake for relatives of Issac “Ike” and Georgia Ritter, Frank and Tennie Ritter, etc. Please bring a covered dish and something to drink. For more information, please contact Imogene (McCoy) Odell at 507 Chickasaw St., Poteau, OK 74953 or call (918) 647-3791 or (918) 647-7596.

Thompson/McKinney
 The Thompson/McKinney family reunion will be May 29 on Texanna Road at Lake Eufaula, Eufaula, Oklahoma. Everyone is invited. For more information, please contact Faye Sago, (918) 322-9644.

Beal
 The Beal family will be celebrating another year at Cumberland Cove Resort on Lake Texoma. The fun begins on Friday, May 28, and lasts through Monday, May 31. This is Memorial weekend. For reservations or directions, please visit the resort website at www.cumberlandcoveresort.com.

Veterans Association to meet

The Quarterly Choctaw Veterans Association will meet at 12 noon on April 24 at Durant’s Choctaw Senior Citizen Center. It will be followed by a fish fry at 3 p.m. All veterans please attend.



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

For any additional information needed, call Nancy Kirby, Homebuyer Counselor, at 1-800-235-3087, ext. 301, for help with the application and/or we will address additional questions for you.

Also, if you live near one of the following areas and want to learn more about homeownership or refinancing, please call the office to register to attend a homebuyer class.

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
May 4	Hugo	5:30 p.m.
May 18	Tulsa	5:30 p.m.

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Loss of two legends

The Choctaw Nation is saddened this month at the loss of two legends, Charley Jones and Randle Durant. Not only did these two men have a vast knowledge of Choctaw history, they were each important components of recent tribal history. These two men were friends for most of their lives, and left this earth one week apart.

As youth, Charley and Randle attended school together at Goodland, and as adults they dedicated themselves to serving others. Randle spent time serving in the military, then serving tribal people, working for many years on the Gila River reservation in Arizona, before moving back to Oklahoma to serve Choctaws as a Tribal Councilman. Charley worked for the BIA and IHS as well as serving as translator for the Choctaw language at the University of Oklahoma before being elected to the Tribal Council.

Both of these men have traveled many miles on behalf of the Choctaw people. Trips to Washington, D.C. and Oklahoma City were frequent for both Randle and Charley. They made sure that Senators and Representatives did not forget the Choctaw Nation. Europeans were thrilled to meet these fine gentlemen when they served as Choctaw Ambassadors, Randle traveling to Ireland and Charley to France.

Personal memories of Randle and Charley as my friends and co-workers bring me a great deal of pleasure. I have seen Randle in his cook's apron in many kitchens over the years, including the old and new community centers in Wilburton, the cafeteria at Tushka Homma

and numerous stops along the campaign trail. He even provided a meal cooked outside at the very first Trail of Tears Walk at Eagle-town.

My fondest memories of Charley are learning the old ways from him. I could listen for hours as he talked in a mixture of Choctaw and English, telling stories of Choctaw history. Randle and Charley were always at ease in a casual setting such as a brush arbor or front porch, and also comfortable in the most formal of surroundings in the role as statesmen. It was truly an honor to have been in their presence so often in my lifetime.

Both Randle and Charley have imparted immeasurable wisdom to the rest of us, and they will always be appreciated. The Council and I have agreed to honor them by naming some very important facilities after them. The large health clinic being built in Idabel will be the Charley Jones Indian Health Clinic, and the Choctaw Community Center in Wilburton will be named the Randle Durant Choctaw Center.

There is a quote from Winston Churchill that reminds me of Randle and Charley and the contributions they have made in their lives, "Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy



and glory of the climb." I am thankful that Randle Durant and Charley Jones had a long journey of progress that continued throughout their entire lives.



Durant is to receive the largest of the Choctaw Nation's planned construction projects – a new casino, entertainment center, wellness center, horse barn, rodeo arena, expansion of hotel and renovation of the east Travel Plaza which was the very first travel plaza built by the tribe.

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

Dollars from new casinos to fund services



Construction will triple size of Pocola's casino, adding 150 jobs to area

Construction began in September 2003 on the Choctaw Casino in Pocola, a project that will more than triple the size of the gaming center. The construction is focused on the casino's gaming floor, main entrance and administrative offices. The first phase of the project is expected to be complete by August 2004.

The casino will remain open throughout the construction, and hasn't yet interrupted any daily operations. Guests are asked to use temporary entrances on the west side of the center to gain access to the casino floor.

"However minimal, we regret any inconvenience our guests may experience as a result of this project," said Janie Dillard, Executive Director of Gaming. "But we are confident that come August, they'll really enjoy the result."

The \$15 million project will add 47,825 square feet to the current 18,000-square-foot casino floor. Dillard says she estimates the new facility will create 150 new direct jobs in LeFlore County. Currently, the Choctaw tribe employs more than 150 people at the Pocola facility.

"We want to see this region thrive economically and socially," Dillard said. "We feel that expanding our casino will bring great things to LeFlore County like meaningful employment, more business for vendors and other positive economic effects."

Upon completion, the Choctaw Casino in Pocola will be a 65,825-square-foot facility offering some of the best gaming in the casino industry, featuring more than 1,000 gaming machines, a 200-seat off-track betting facility and a 200-seat buffet-style restaurant.

The Choctaw Nation is improving the tourism aspect of our economic development with construction projects in several towns. Durant is receiving the largest project, with the construction of a new casino, entertainment center, wellness center, horse barn, rodeo arena, expansion of the hotel and complete renovation of the Travel Plaza on the east side of the highway.

The entertainment center will be 128,000 square feet, coliseum style, and will seat 5,000 people. This will be adjacent to the new 104,000-square-foot casino, which will connect to the Choctaw Inn. We expect to add 60 new rooms to the existing hotel.

On the north side of Rodeo Road, a 127,000-square-foot horse barn and portable arena are being built. This will be a wonderful location for a tremendous variety of events, especially to accommodate youth. Stock shows, youth rodeos, ropings, bull ridings, concerts, speakings, and seminars are just a few suggestions that the new facilities can be used for.

The Chief, Council and I are excited about the tourism destination that this new complex of facilities will provide to our customers. Even more exciting is the availability of new jobs that will be created and the revenues produced that will provide money for tribal services.

The expansion at Pocola Casino is moving along rapidly, and customers continue to enjoy themselves in the existing building while waiting for completion of the new facility.

The casino at Grant will replace the mobile unit that has served as a temporary casino. We are very fortunate to have gaming sites close to state borders so it is convenient for customers to drive from Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.

The casino at Grant will replace the mobile unit that has served as a temporary casino. We are very fortunate to have gaming sites close to state borders so it is convenient for customers to drive from Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.



Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

Jesus Christ doesn't call us to be bystanders or spectators. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior, he or she becomes a member of the Body of Christ. It means that you have chosen Jesus Christ and you are following Him. You cannot be neutral.

"Are you a Christian?" I mean a true Christian, a born-again Christian. There are many people who have a wrong idea of what a Christian is. They say, "A Christian is a person who prays." Christians do pray, but prayer doesn't make a Christian. Or people say, "A Christian lives by the Golden Rule." But living by the Golden Rule doesn't make you a Christian. Some people say, "A Christian is a person who goes to church." Yes, a Christian ought to go to church, but attending church doesn't make one a Christian. I am talking about a real, genuine, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Do you have that?

Now let's look at this question: "What is a Christian?"

First, a Christian is a person who has made a choice. All the way through the Bible we are asked to make choices. Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden made the wrong choice. They rebelled against God. They chose to try to build their world without God, and they made a terrible, tragic mistake. We read that record in Genesis 2 and 3. They broke God's law and passed the results of their disobedience on to you and to me. We are all sinners, and we are all capable of sin, and we all sin. (Romans 3:23). David said, "... in sin did my mother conceive me." I was born in sin. We are sinners by choice.

We have to choose. Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth into life, and few there be that find it." He said that only a few people are on the narrow road that leads to heaven. The majority are on a broad road that leads to judgment, destruction and hell. Which road are you on?

It is what you do about Jesus Christ, His cross and His resurrection that counts. If we enter

Trail of Tears Walk planned at Skullyville

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council invite everyone to participate in the Skullyville Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk to be held Saturday, May 1.

Ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. at the historic Skullyville Cemetery, which is the National Cemetery of the Choctaw Nation. The walk will end at the new Choctaw Nation Community Center in Spiro, which is four miles from the cemetery. A free lunch will be served at the center to thank all who participate. Please park your cars at the community center and ride a shuttle bus to the cemetery. There is very little parking at the cemetery.

that narrow gate at the cross and the resurrection and say, "Yes, Lord, I believe, I turn from my sins; I am willing to change my way of living," we will walk on the narrow road which may be rocky and rough and tough. But at the end will be heaven. As we walk on that narrow road God will give us new resources, a new power, a new joy and a new love.

Second, a Christian is a person whose life has been changed. That is done by the Holy Spirit. The moment you receive Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God comes to live in your heart. We read in Second Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Christ is the One who does it. He transforms your life, He makes you a new person. Has a change taken place in your life? People are changed by the renewing of their minds. You act the way you believe. Today, you can change your mind about God, about Jesus Christ. Follow Him and find the peace and satisfaction that He gives.

Our problems, our emotions, our feelings, our behavior and our goals are all rooted in our wrong beliefs about how to meet our personal needs in life. Jesus Christ can take charge of the problems we have with sex and with all our problems today, if we let Him.

Third, a Christian is a person who has accepted a challenge. Jesus said, "... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24) In other words, we deny self – our own selfish ambitions, our own selfish sinful pleasures. Then we turn and take up our cross. What did Jesus mean by that? He is saying that when you go back to your school, back to your neighborhood, back to your work and tell people that you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, they may laugh at you. They may make fun of you. Maybe your friends will no longer have anything to do with you. You will have to pay a price.

Many of the people who followed Jesus quit following Him when He talked about death. They didn't understand the deeper meaning of His death and resurrection. They didn't realize that when He died on the cross and rose again, that was their only hope to have their sins forgiven and to get to heaven. Jesus Christ is the only hope that we have in this life, or in the life to come.

Some people resist the idea of a choice of any sort. Jesus taught that there are two roads, and you have to choose which road you will take. There are two masters, and you have to choose which master you are going to serve. There are two destinies: heaven or hell. You have to make a choice.

God doesn't make the choice for us. God gave His Son who offers to forgive our sin and give us eternal life, and He helps us to make the choice by sending His Holy Spirit to convict us. But ultimately we make our own choice. God gave us the gift of free will. We can say, "I will," or, "I won't." Which will it be for you? That's the choice we have



to make. Jesus demands that we decide about Him.

The Bible also teaches that "God is love." (1 John 4:8) He loves you. He is interested in you. The Bible is a living book, a book about faith, a book about God. It is a living book that speaks to us as we read it.

But I think the main reason people don't come to Christ is because they don't want to pay the price. Jesus Christ will not compromise. He will not negotiate. You either come by repentance and faith, or you don't come at all. The choice that you make about Jesus Christ is your soul's eternal destiny.

What do you have to do? You have to be willing to say, "God, I'm a sinner." That is repentance. You have to be willing to turn from sin. Then by faith commit your life to Jesus Christ and put him first from now on. Will you make that choice to trust Jesus Christ as your savior by faith?

May God bless you as we commemorate the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God Bless America. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Psalms 33:12)

Special election scheduled to fill District 6 seat

For those Choctaw residents of Latimer County and Choctaws who live outside the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma but are affiliated with District 6, there will be a special election to fill long-time Latimer County Councilman Randle Durant's remaining term. Mr. Durant passed away on March 18.

The election is scheduled for Saturday, May 22. If needed, a runoff will be Saturday, June 12.

If anyone has moved or had a change of name, please be sure to notify the Tribal Membership Office of all changes as soon as possible in order to receive your absentee ballot.

If you live inside the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's 10 1/2 counties and wish to vote by absentee ballot, you must submit a written request to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Election Board as soon as possible.

For absentee requests and information concerning the special election, please call

1-800-522-6170, ext. 2433/2462
or write to:
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Election Board
PO Box 1430
Durant, OK 74702-1430

Choctaw Nation helps detect undiagnosed diabetes

The Choctaw Nation Health Care Center is participating in a nationwide effort to find persons who have undiagnosed diabetes. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is the sponsor of the Diabetes Detection Initiative (DDI) program begun in December 2003. Choctaw Nation is one of ten sites in the country selected to participate in this initiative. Each site will distribute diabetes risk surveys and offer free blood sugar testing in its area. So far, the Diabetes Wellness Center, Choctaw Nation Community Health Representatives, and the Community Health Nursing department have distributed over 10,000 surveys and tested hundreds of blood sugars at numerous sites in the Choctaw Nation's ten and one-half counties.

Diabetes is an extremely serious health problem nationwide. Approximately 18 million people in the U.S. have diabetes. Almost 6 million people have never been diagnosed. The number of new onset diabetes grows by 1 million cases per year. The Choctaw Nation, under the leadership of Chief Gregory Pyle, is dedicated to the effort of finding undiagnosed diabetes.

"This DDI program is just one of the many programs Choctaw Nation has started or participates in to battle the diabetes epidemic," stated Sandra Dukes, Director of the Diabetes Wellness Center in Talihina.

The survey asks seven questions about family history and health. A score of ten or greater indicates high risk for diabetes and that person is advised to have their blood sugar checked. Beneath the risk survey are directions on what to do if the score is higher than ten. Anyone who has already read the survey, taken the risk test, and scored ten or more is urged to follow up as directed.

The risk surveys and blood sugar testing will be continued throughout the spring at more sites in Choctaw Nation. Read the Choctaw Nation newspaper "Bishinik" or your local newspaper for dates and sites.

Surveys and blood sugar testing will be available at the following:

- April 16:**
Durant Tribal Complex, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- April 22:**
Spiro Field Office, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- April 23:**
Wright City Community Center, 9 a.m.-12 noon
- April 28:**
McAlester Community Center, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- April 29:**
Broken Bow Community Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- April 30:**
Bethel Community Center, 12 noon-3 p.m.



DIABETES. YOU COULD BE AT RISK

Take the test – know your score!

Answer these quick questions. For each Yes answer, add the number of points listed. All No answers are 0 points.

Question	Yes	No
Are you a woman who has had a baby weighing more than 9 pounds at birth?	1	0
Do you have a sister or brother with diabetes?	1	0
Do you have a parent with diabetes?	1	0
Find your height on the chart. Do you weigh as much as or more than the weight listed for your height? (<i>See chart</i>)	5	0
Are you under 65 years old and get little or no exercise in a typical day?	5	0
Are you between 45 and 64 years old?	5	0
Are you 65 years old or older?	9	0
Add your score		

Know your score

If you scored ...	then your risk is
10 or more points	High for having diabetes now. Please bring this form to your health care provider soon. If you don't have insurance and can't afford a visit to your provider, go to a Health Center listed below.
3 to 9 points	Probably low for having diabetes now. Keep your risk low. If you're overweight, lose weight. Be active most days, and don't use tobacco. Eat low-fat meals with fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain foods. If you have cholesterol or high blood pressure, talk to your health care provider about your risk for diabetes.

Contact your local health center

- Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, Talihina, OK, 800-349-7026
- JohnAnderson Health Center, Broken Bow, OK, 580-584-2766
- Harry J.W. Belvin Health Clinic, Hugo, OK, 580-326-7561
- McAlester Clinic, McAlester, OK, 918-423-8440
- Rubin White Health Clinic, Poteau, OK, 918-649-1100
- Kiamichi Family Health Center, Inc., Battiest, OK, 580-241-5294

I scored 10 or more ... How can I get tested for diabetes?

If you have ...	then do this ...
Individual or group private health insurance	See your health care provider. If you don't have a provider, ask your insurance company about providers who take your insurance. Deductibles and co-pays will apply.
Medicaid	See your health care provider. If you don't have a provider, contact a state Medicaid office or one of the listed health care centers.
Medicare	See your health care provider. Medicare will pay the cost if the provider has a reason for testing. If you don't have a provider, call one of the listed health care centers.
No insurance	Contact one of the listed health care centers, or contact the health department.

Survey questions are from the American Diabetes Association's on-line "Diabetes Risk Test" (<http://www.diabetes.org/info/risk/risktest.jsp>).

Healthy Lifestyles

10 tips to healthy eating and physical activity for you

1. Start your day with breakfast.

Breakfast fills your "empty tank" to get you going after a long night without food. And it can help you do better in school. Easy to prepare breakfasts are cold cereal with fruit and low-fat milk, whole-wheat toast with peanut butter, yogurt with fruit, whole-grain waffles or even last night's pizza.

2. Get moving!

It's easy to fit physical activities into you and your child's daily routine. Walk, bike or jog to see friends. Take a 10-minute activity break every hour while you read, do homework, work, or watch TV. Climb stairs instead of taking an escalator or elevator. Try to do these things for a total of 30 minutes every day.

3. Snack smart.

Snacks are a great way to refuel. Choose snacks from different food groups – a glass of low-fat milk and a few graham crackers, an apple or celery sticks with peanut butter and raisins, or some dry cereal. If you eat smart at other meals, cookies, chips and candy are okay for occasional snacking.

4. Work up a sweat.

Vigorous workouts – when you're breathing hard and sweating – help your heart pump better, give you more energy and help you look and feel best. Start with a warm-up that stretches your muscles. Include 20 minutes of aerobic activity, such as running, jogging, or dancing. Follow-up with activities that help make you stronger such as push-ups or lifting weights. Then cool down with more stretching and deep breathing.

5. Balance food choices – don't eat too much of one thing.

You don't have to give up foods like hamburgers, french fries and ice cream to eat healthy. You just have to be smart about how often and how much of them you eat. Your body needs nutrients like protein, carbohydrates, fat and many different vitamins and minerals such as vitamins C and A, iron and calcium from a variety of foods. Balancing food choices from the Food Guide Pyramid and checking out the Nutrition Facts Panel on food labels will help you get all these nutrients.

6. Get fit with friends or family.

Being active is much more fun with friends or family. Encourage others to join you and plan one special physical activity event, like a bike ride or hiking, with a group each week.

7. Eat more grains, fruits and vegetables.

These foods give you carbohydrates for energy, plus vitamins, minerals and fiber. Besides, they taste good! Try breads such as whole-wheat, bagels and pita. Spaghetti and oatmeal are also in the grain group. Bananas, strawberries and melons are some great tasting fruits. Try vegetables raw, on a sandwich or salad.

8. Join in physical activities at school.

Whether you take a physical education class or do other physical activities at school, such as intramural sports, structures activities are a sure way to feel good, look good and stay physically fit.

9. Foods aren't good or bad.

A healthy eating style is like a puzzle with many parts. Each part – or food – is different. Some foods may have more fat, sugar or salt while others may have more vitamins or fiber. There is a place for all these foods. What makes a diet good or bad is how foods fit together. Balancing your choices is important. Fit in a higher-fat food, like pepperoni pizza, at dinner by choosing lower-fat foods at other meals. And don't forget about moderation. If two pieces of pizza fill you up, don't need a third.

10. Make healthy eating and physical activities fun!

Take advantage of physical activities you and your friends enjoy doing together and eat the foods you like. Be adventurous – try new sports, games and other activities as well as new foods. You'll grow stronger, play longer, and look and feel better! Set realistic goals – don't try changing too much at once.

(The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports)



Cookbook focuses on improving health of diabetics

By Derek Frazier

June Rolston, a retired registered nurse, has written a new cookbook for diabetics, aptly titled "Diabetic Cookbook."

In this cookbook, Rolston discusses a healthier lifestyle for diabetics through improved and smart meal plans; the same plans, in fact, that she incorporated into her husband's eating habits, which resulted in him losing over 60 pounds in one year.

After selling well over 1,000 copies of her cookbook nationwide, Rolston has received a tremendous amount of praise from people all over the country.

"I have tried some of the recipes, found them to be delicious, ..." Jennie Davidson of Lemoore, California, states in a letter to Rolston.

Along with healthy eating tips, Rolston also includes helpful information for the diabetic consumer, such as ways to control glucose levels, various forms of exercise and how to ask for a low fat/low sugar meal when dining out.

For more information regarding the "Diabetic Cookbook," please contact June Rolston at (918) 773-8815.



June and Carl E. Rolston

Answers to the most common questions on feeding toddlers

My toddler doesn't seem to eat much. Should I be worried?

Nutritional requirements for toddlers are often fewer than parents think – and the amount and variety of foods that actually get past their toddlers' lips are often greater than they think.

To fuel daily activity, growth, and development, your toddler will eat several small "energy packets" or meals throughout the day, instead of a few big meals. It may seem like your toddler barely eats a thing. But, if you add up all the healthy snacks over the course of a day, a piece of fruit here ... a cracker there ... a cup of juice ... a mouthful of

WIC

WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN

milk, you will see that your toddler is probably eating a well-rounded, healthy diet.

It's common for toddlers to go on food jags (eating the same food for weeks in a row) or food strikes (refusing to eat certain foods or any food at all). A registered dietitian can offer specific suggestions for handling these normal – but challenging – toddler eating patterns.

What is a good portion size?

A good rule for toddler-sized

portions is about one-quarter of the serving that you'd give an adult. A typical serving of vegetables would be 1 to 2 tablespoons and a serving of meat would be about a 1-inch cube.

When should I switch my toddler from whole milk to low-fat milk?

By the first birthday, you can switch your toddler from formula to whole cow's milk. Two glasses of milk each day are recommended. Between the ages of two and five years, children can gradually make the transition to reduced-fat (2%), low-fat (1%), or fat-free (skim) milk. Along with fat, milk is a good source of

calcium, which is important to toddlers for building strong bones and healthy teeth.

Does my toddler still need iron-fortified foods?

Yes, iron continues to be a very important nutrient through the second birthday because so much is used for rapid growth. Fifty percent of toddlers, however, are not getting enough iron. Continuing to feed your toddler iron-fortified infant cereals until age two can help reduce the risk of iron deficiency and anemia.

Why is zinc important for my toddler?

Zinc deficiency can also be a concern for toddlers. Seventy percent of toddlers are not getting enough dietary zinc. Unfortunately, unlike iron deficiency, there are no simple tests to determine the degree of zinc deficiency. If your toddler isn't growing as well as you would expect in either height or weight or if your child has frequent skin or diaper rashes, or recurring infections, talk with your doctor about zinc deficiency. As with iron, continue to use infant cereals that are fortified with zinc through the second birthday.

How important is variety to my toddler's diet?

Very. Toddlers can regulate their own energy and nutrient intake if they are allowed to choose from a variety of healthful foods. While the amount or kinds of foods your toddler might eat at any given meal might not seem adequate, over the course of time, your child is likely eating a healthy diet.

At Risk Weight Chart

Height	Weight (pounds)
4'10"	129
4'11"	133
5'0"	138
5'1"	143
5'2"	147
5'3"	152
5'4"	157
5'5"	162
5'6"	167
5'7"	172
5'8"	177
5'9"	182
5'10"	188
5'11"	193
6'0"	199
6'1"	204
6'2"	210
6'3"	216
6'4"	221

Diabetes means your blood sugar (glucose) is too high. How would you know? Do you urinate often? Do you have sores that heal slowly, tingling in your feet, or blurry eyesight? Even without these signs, you could still have diabetes. Diabetes is a serious disease. It can cause heart attack or stroke, blindness, kidney failure, or loss of feet or legs. But diabetes can be controlled. You can reduce or avoid these health problems. Take the first step – Find out if you are at risk, now.

Apply for cards as soon as possible

Choctaw Nation CDIB and Membership Department

If you have a new baby or child who doesn't have a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) Card and a Choctaw Tribal Membership Card, now is the time to apply. The Tribal Membership staff is working about 45 days behind. Do not wait until you need a CDIB or Membership Card for services. Apply as soon as your child, grandchild or great-grandchild is born. Much of the time, a new baby's card isn't applied for until it is actually needed, then it takes several weeks to get the card, providing you have all documents that are required on file, or you have them to mail with the application. Even if someone in your family has their cards, it doesn't mean that you will automatically receive the child's cards. At this time, if you have never had a CDIB and are applying, WE MUST HAVE THE ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE ON THE APPLICANT. Once we have issued the cards, we will return the original birth certificate to you. School is almost out for the summer. Many will start college or head start for the first time. This means they will need both cards for school. Please get ahead of the rush and apply now. Many universities/colleges will accept a tribal membership card, not just a CDIB. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Chief proclaims March as Choctaw Nation Social Work Month

Since 1984, March has officially been designated as a month to acknowledge and recognize the contributions to the quality of life made by America's half-million social workers. On March 4, Chief Gregory E. Pyle signed a proclamation declaring March as Social Work Month within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. In the proclamation, the Chief stated that Social Workers should be recognized for their commitment and dedication to Choctaws and other American Indian individuals, families, and communities. He called on all citizens of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to celebrate and support Social Workers and the Social Work Profession during the month of March.

As part of the celebration, the Community Based Social Work and Victim Assistance programs sponsored a one-day conference at the Choctaw Nation Complex in Durant. Many tribal programs and area agencies were in attendance to celebrate the profession of social work by learning about available community services. Keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Carol Bridges, Director of the Social Work Program at East Central University in Ada. All conference attendees participated in the Hopetown presentation, role playing which allowed the participants to spend a day in the shoes of their clients.

Several recognized for completion of PWI Job Readiness Seminar

April D. Goines, Jim Allen, Gerald Branam, Jr., Delbert D. Logan, and Barbara McAuliffe are among those recently awarded Certificates of Achievement for completion of a Job Readiness Training Seminar in McAlester, Oklahoma, on February 24. The training included but wasn't limited to identifying job career choices, how to locate a job, how to complete a job application, techniques for job interviewing, resume and job-keeping characteristics.

The Projects with Industry Program can assist many businesses that are looking for capable, dependable, and pre-screened employees. If a business agrees to hire an individual through this program, the program will be able to reimburse for on-the-job training at 100% of the employee salary. The business is encouraged to retain the individual in permanent employment at the end of the training period. Businesses can also take advantage of federal tax credits of up to \$4,000 per employee

The Choctaw Nation Community Based Social Work Program is a community based program which helps Choctaw families and individuals find permanent solutions to long-term problems. The social workers make home visits, locate resources, assist families in functioning more adequately and assist in obtaining necessary services needed to stabilize their situation.

The Choctaw Nation Victim Assistance Program provides advocacy to all victims of crime. The program's area of focus is with Elder/Vulnerable Adult Abuse. Victims who need help may contact our office at 1-877-285-6893.

for employing a Native American with a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB). Disabled Native Americans who have a CDIB and are looking for employment are urged to take advantage of this program. Individuals found eligible can benefit from several services offered such as: on-the-job training, job placement, job searches, counseling and guidance and job readiness classes. This program can assist native individuals with disabilities which may include

but isn't limited to diabetes, mel-litus, alcohol abuse/dependency, orthopedic, mental health, high blood pressure and many more which are too numerous to mention. Applicants must reside in the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation. For further information on services available through the Projects with Industry Program, you may contact Randy Hammons, PWI Director, or Angela Dancer, PWI Coordinator/ Sr. Counselor, at (877) 285-6893 or (580) 326-7758.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 18-24

The Choctaw Nation now has a Victim Assistance Program. The program will service all victims of crime, but the main focus is on victims of elder abuse. To be eligible for services you must be a victim of a crime, be a member of a federally recognized tribe, and must live within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Services this program provides may include court system advocacy, intervention services, accompaniment to hospitals for medical exams, emergency food, clothing, transportation, and shelter, emergency legal assistance and other emergency services that will restore the victim's sense of dignity and self-esteem.

The Victim Assistance Program has two Victim Advocates - Cynthia Martin may be contacted if you live in Haskell, Southern Hughes, Latimer, Leflore or Pittsburg counties, and Bruce Frazier works Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, McCurtain and Pushmataha counties. The Choctaw Nation Victim Assistance Program Director, Randy Hammons, along with Assistant Director/Lead Advocate Linda Goodwin and staff are asking that we remember all victims of crime during April 18-24 which is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. If you feel our services can benefit you, please call.

Large confined animal feeding operation funding available in Oklahoma

Ann Colyer, Tribal Resource Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), has announced that funding is available under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for treatment of resource concerns for large confined animal feeding operations statewide for fiscal year 2004. Oklahoma has set aside a total of \$350,000 for cost share assistance to apply conservation practices and management incentives for the treatment of water quality resource concerns relative to animal waste management. "Applicants will compete statewide for the large confined animal resource concern funds," says Colyer. Successful appli-

cants will be selected from a statewide list with high priority resource concerns as addressed in the application ranking criteria. The 2002 Farm Bill removed the restrictions on the use of EQIP funds for the large confined animal feeding operations (AFO/CAFO), and the State Technical Committee requested a statewide process to address the potential water quality impacts of these operations to the rivers and streams of the state. This allows these operations to apply for EQIP financial assistance for animal waste storage, treatment, and utilization for eligible beef, dairy, and swine operations to address these potential resource concerns. Priority is

given to existing large confined animal operations that are maintaining or reducing the size of the operation with a lesser priority for expanding facilities. New facilities of any type, along with poultry operations are ineligible. All applicants will be required to develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) during the EQIP contract period. "We are accepting applications for participation in the statewide AFO/CAFO program on a continuous basis," adds Colyer. "However, only applications received by June 1, 2004, will be ranked and considered during this initial selection period." Evaluated applications will be

grouped and selected for funding from a statewide pool of applications after July 1, 2004, until the funding allocation is obligated. Unsuccessful applications will be maintained for future funding consideration if the applicant chooses to remain on the waiting list. Successful applicants with high priority resource concerns will be contacted to develop contracts to obligate the current funding allocation. Individual large confined animal feeding operations that have high priority resource concerns and are interested in participation in EQIP may apply at any time at your local NRCS, local conservation district, or Farm Service Agency office.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program offers incentives opportunities statewide

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces the availability of a new statewide Manure Transfer Resource Concerns incentives opportunity in EQIP. The statewide Manure Transfer Resource Concerns, a special project for Oklahoma designated by Darrel Dominick, NRCS State Conservationist, is now being funded by 2004 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds at the state level. The project has two primary objectives. The first is to create an incentive to distribute animal manure to areas of the state that have historically not

used animal manure as a source of plant nutrients. This has the potential to reduce animal manure application in areas where it has traditionally been applied at levels in excess of plant production needs. The second objective is the promotion of a long-term market for animal manure as a source of plant nutrients around the state to promote better distribution of these nutrients. Only individuals who have not purchased or applied animal manure on land they own or otherwise managed in the past 3 years are eligible to participate. Applications will be taken on

a continuous sign-up basis and high priority applications, based on specific ranking criteria, will be selected for funding from a statewide pool. Local NRCS field offices will begin accepting applications immediately. Only applications received by June 1, 2004, will be ranked and considered during this initial period. Applications after that date will continue to be evaluated and maintained for possible future funding. Successful applicants will be notified after July 1. For details contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Free meetings for lease hunting and property landowners are scheduled in May

A free meeting provided by the Choctaw Nation and the OSU Cooperative Extension Service will be conducted in Coalgate on Thursday, May 6, and in McAlester on May 7. The free meeting is to provide information and answer questions for landowners who lease

out their land or are considering leasing their land for hunting or recreation. Topics to be discussed include "Lease Hunting as Income for Landowners," "Land Management Programs Available in the 2002 Farm Bill," "Rural Development Programs," "FSA Agri-

cultural Loan Programs," "Liability and Employment Concerns for Landowners," "Risk Management," "Environmental Liability Issues," and "Equine Law." The program begins at 8 a.m. at the respective Choctaw Nation Field Offices. The office in Coal-

gate is located at 103 E. California and in McAlester at 1632 George Nigh Expressway. Lunch will be provided by the Choctaw Nation and the program should conclude around 2:15 p.m. If you plan to attend this meeting, please contact the Coal or Pittsburg County OSU Coopera-

tive Extension Office at 580-927-2262 in Coal County or 918-423-4120 in Pittsburg County so that meal preparations may be made. For more information, contact Harold Stephens at the OSU Extension office in Coalgate or Ted Evicks at the OSU Extension office in McAlester.

Oklahoma State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local Governments cooperating, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Lawn mower and weed eating safety is urged

Safety Development Department of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

- One of the most important things to remember before you begin is what kind of fuel does the machine you're using burn. Most weed eaters use a two-cycle oil and gas mixture, while a lawn mower will use regular unleaded gasoline.
- If you have a gasoline fueled mower, store the gas in a UL listed safety container.
- Fill the mower outside, using a funnel to prevent spills.
- Stay away from possible ignition sources and replace gas cap firmly when done.
- Pre-inspect the area you plan on cutting for rocks, sticks, or any object that could become a projectile if ran over by the mower.
- Always be sure that no one is around when you are mowing or weed eating to prevent a possible accident.
- Make sure all safety guards are in place and keep the mower blades sharp.
- If you hit an object or have a mower malfunction,



der the mower for any reason while the mower is on.

- Safe footwear is important on a weed eater, and especially with a walk behind mower. Make sure your shoes provide good traction to reduce slipping. Never work barefoot or in sandals.
- Safety glasses are a must on a weed eater, and not a bad habit to wear also when using a push or riding lawn mower.
- Never leave the mower unattended while running and don't allow young children or inexperienced people to operate the mower.

tion, remember to turn off the mower and disconnect the power cord before inspecting for damage.

- Keep your hands and feet away from the mower's blades. Never reach under the mower for any reason while the mower is on.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY PROGRAM						
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 Monday thru Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.						1
2	3 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	4 Durant 10 am-12 noon	5 Stigler by appt. only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	6	7 Idabel 10 am-2 pm	8
9	10 Antlers by appt. only	11	12 Atoka 9-11 am Coalgate 12 noon-2 pm	13	14 Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm	15
16	17 Bethel by appt only	18 Durant by appt only	19 Crowder by appt only McAlester by appt only	20	21 Poteau 11 am-1:30 pm	22
23	24 Holiday 30 31	25 Wilburton 10:30 am-2 pm	26	27	28 Wright City by appt. only	29

People You Know

Happy third birthday

Jake Hanson turned three on November 27. His proud parents are John and Pam (Renehan) Hanson. His grandparents are Patricia Ammann of San Antonio, Texas, Reuben and Janet Hanson of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and Walter and Mona Renehan of Rowland Heights, California. Godparents are Heidi (Mike) Reinbold and Jamie (Lisa) Hanson. Aunts and uncles Jill and Jeff Madden and Sue and Bruce Rickard and many friends and cousins wish Jake a wonderful birthday.

Look who’s one

Leilani Hateya Taylor will celebrate her first birthday on April 6. She is the daughter of Le’ Ashley Jefferson and DeWayne Taylor and the granddaughter of Elias, Jr., and Phyllis Roberts and Mary Taylor, all of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Her great-grandparents are Elias, Sr., and Josephine Roberts of Wright City, Oklahoma, Mary Jane Jefferson of Broken Bow and Edgar and Hazel Taylor of Sobol, Oklahoma. Happy birthday from your Aunt Kisha, Uncle Levi, Uncle Cameron and the rest of your family.

Jennifer turns 24

Jennifer Rose Norman turned 24 years old on March 9. She is the daughter of Carol Rasha of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. We wish you many more happy birthdays – from mom, your brothers, Marcos and Pete Lemus, Papie, and all of your family from Honobia and Broken Bow.

Sweet 16

Tonya Stover turned Sweet 16 on December 11. She is the daughter of Larry and Sonya Stover and the granddaughter of Donald and Sina Hopper. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Sham and Anna Mae Parish.

Kyrin is six

Kyrin Green is six years old and is in the first grade at Virginia Smith Elementary School in Harrah, Oklahoma. Kyrin is the grandson of Martin and Shirley Green. Proud great-grandparents are Donald and Sina Hopper.

Jayden turns one

Jayden Ester Nicole Jefferson turns one on April 11. Her mother, April M. Jefferson, also celebrates her birthday in April. Grandparents are Tim and Debra Jefferson. Happy birthday to mother and daughter! Bless you all!

Happy birthday, Glenn

Glenn Davis turned 44 years old on April 4. May God bless you and happy birthday from Clayton, Vernon, Brooke, Hailey, Travis, Beth, Sierra and your loving wife, Lois. We love you!

Happy 70th birthday

Happy 70th birthday to our mother, grand-mother, and great-grandmother, Bertha Lewis, on April 26. We love you!

Enjoy your birthday!

April 25 marks the 44th birthday for Kenneth Lewis. Enjoy it!

Dickie turns 41

Happy birthday to Dickie Lewis who turns 41 on the 30th – from all your family.

Look who’s 12

Cody Ray Lewis celebrates his 12th birthday on April 23. Love you, Grandma Gean.

Happy 31st

Happy 31st birthday to Duane Dudley on April 24. “Amazing what 30 years has done, huh?”

Gabby to celebrate tenth birthday

Happy birthday to Gabby Williams on April 19. She will be ten years old. Gabby is the daughter of Ted and Deana Williams of Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Kya will soon be three

Kya Maekay Pelayo is turning three years old on April 21. Her parents are Dee Hawk and Tony Pelayo of Durant, Oklahoma. Her great-grandparents are Even and Rosa Gilmore of Calera, Oklahoma. Kya would like to wish her grandma, Debbie Gilmore, of Lawrence, Kansas, a happy birthday on April 10!

Madison turns two

Madison Beard celebrated her second birthday on February 17 with her baby sister, Rae Lee, and friends. She is the daughter of Janet and Jason Beard of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Grand-parents are Donna and Dave Day, Carla and Kenny Barber and John Beard of Tulsa. Great-grandparents are Adam Betsey of Atoka, Oklahoma, Annie Betsey of Durant, Oklahoma, Wanda York and Sue Beard of Tulsa. We love you!

Happy birthday

We would like to wish Virginia (McKee) Hammons – “Granny G” – a happy 75th birthday on April 28. Her father was original enrollee Willie Dan McKee. Her sister, Sue (McKee) Satterfield, will celebrate her 70th birthday in July. Virginia will enjoy a trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico, this month as part of her celebration, then she and Sue will be traveling to the Choctaw of Mississippi reservation in July with other family members to continue the celebration. Happy birthday to both Granny G and Aunt Sue. We love you. – Carson and Rikkie, Randy, Christi and Linda.

Virginia celebrates fifth

Virginia McKay Beddo celebrated her fifth birthday with family and friends at the Hugo Circus on March 20. She is the daughter of Israel and Krista Beddo of Boswell, Oklahoma, and the granddaughter of Justin and Pam Beddo and Jeff and Lynette Hinton of Talihina, Oklahoma. We love you, baby.

Cassie turns 17

Happy birthday to Cassie Brown who turns 17 years old on April 9. Cassie is a junior at Keota High School. Her parents are Charlie and Debra Brown of Stigler, Oklahoma. She has one brother, Chad. We love you very much and best wishes for the future.

Happy birthday

Caroline Thompson of Paris, Texas, celebrated her 40+ birthday on February 21 at the fairgrounds social hall. It was a blessed and joyous occasion. We would like to thank all who attended the special event. Thanks to our Oklahoma family who travels several miles each year to be with us. Our most important thank you goes to our Heavenly Father who has blessed us with such an important person in our life. Her only disappointment was that it rained the next day so she couldn’t go fishing, which is her hobby. Mother, we love you so much – Pollie, Margaret, Victor, David, Lawrence, Ruth, Juanita and Harry.

Happy 80th birthday

Albert Lee White will be 80 on April 10 and will celebrate with his granddaughter, Leann Maddoux, who will turn 31 on April 11. Dinner will be held at his daughter’s, Lynda and Joe Krepfs of Gainesville, Texas. Wife Nancy will serve a birthday cake. Albert is retired from TWA Airlines in St. Louis, Missouri. His mother, grandparents and great-grandparents are all original enrollees. He is proud of his Choctaw heritage.

Couple celebrates 58th anniversary

Logan Max “Chief” and Bertie Lillian Graman celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on April 5, 2004. Friends and family joined them in a celebration and reception on March 28 at Caddo Lake in Oil City, Louisiana. Max Graman, the son of Petross “Pete” Graman of Antlers, is a veteran of World War II. The happy couple met at Caddo Lake in Mooringsport, Louisiana, in 1946. Bertie, known for her spunky Irish charm and great cooking, stole Chief’s heart away. They have held their family together through hard times and good times, weathering the storms of life with their faith in the Lord and their great sense of humor. They have two daughters and had two sons (deceased), four grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Their family is very proud of them and thankful to them for all their love and prayers!

Happy anniversary

Congratulations to Marvin and Rita James of Duncanville, Texas, on their 30th wedding anniversary, March 9, 2004. Marvin and Rita have two children, daughter Tracey Baldillez and husband, Jason, of Grand Prairie, Texas, and son, Kevin James and wife, Vanessa, of Dallas, Texas; and two grandchildren, Jonathan and Erin Baldillez of Grand Prairie, Texas. Marvin is the son of the late Imogene Ward James and the late Arvin James of Broken Bow. Rita is the daughter of the late Alma Cole, who recently went home to be with her Lord, and the late Cecil Cole of Bokchito, Oklahoma.

Happy birthday

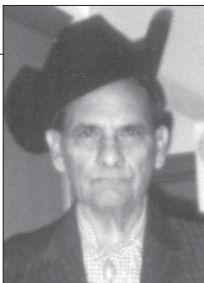
Happy birthday to Kristina Peters of Oklahoma City who turned four years old on February 24. She is looking forward to going to school this year. Kristina is the daughter of Heather Peters and Kevin Moon and the granddaughter of Marvin Peters and the late Rhonda Peters, all of Oklahoma City. Kristina and Kira would also like to wish a happy birthday to their grandpa, Marvin Peters, and their cousin, Kevin Bohanon of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, and to give a shout out there to all their family and friends in Broken Bow.

Happy birthday

Hannah Marie would like to wish her little sister, Megan, a happy first birthday on March 6. Megan will celebrate her birthday with cake, ice cream, and all of her family. Proud parents are Tom and Shawna Wall of Ashdown, Arkansas. Grandparents are Wayne Tisho and Wynema Willis of Broken Bow. Great-grandparents are Newman and Mary Tisho of Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to a very special person, Melissa Foster, wife of James and mother of Taylor Rhi-Ann. Melissa turned 32 years old on February 25.



Nursery News

Brylei Christine Thompson

Krissey Thompson and Woody Farmer, Jr., would like to announce the birth of their new baby girl, Brylei Christine Thompson. Brylei was born at 2:39 p.m. on January 18, 2004, at McCurtain Memorial Hospital, Idabel, Oklahoma. She weighed 5 pounds and was 18.5 inches long. Brylei’s grandparents are the late Eddie Chris Thompson of Hugo, Eddie and Leslie Lawler of Arthur City, Texas, Woody Farmer, Sr., of Chicota, Texas, and Delwana Taylor of Poteau, Oklahoma. Brylei was named after her great-grandmother, the late Christine Thompson of Hugo.

Courtney Lynn Dixon

Proud parents Brett and Lynette Dixon of Twin Falls, Idaho, would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Courtney Lynn Dixon. Born November 28, 2003, she weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 21 inches. Grandparents are Leonard and Lou Ratliff, Jan Harrison and Al Dixon.

Shea Donald Sanders

Proud parents Jeri Ann (Ellis) and Clifford Lee Sanders would like to announce the birth of their son, Shea Donald Sanders. He was born at 10:31 a.m. January 9, 2004, at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma in Durant. He weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 21.5 inches long.

Brandon Ty Labor

Brandon and April Labor would like to announce the birth of their first son, Brandon Ty Labor. He was born at 3:12 a.m. February 18 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, Talihina, Oklahoma. Brandon weighed in at 8 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Grandparents are Hardy and Tammie Labor of McCurtain, Oklahoma, and Ken and Linda Pollard of Spiro, Oklahoma.

Ashleigh Renae Ruthstrom

Jason and Heather Ruthstrom are proud to announce the arrival of a beautiful baby girl, Ashleigh Renae. She was born January 23, 2004, in Lawton, Oklahoma, weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Grandparents are Joyce Scruggs and John and Cathy Ruthstrom of Marlow and Duncan, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Curtis and Peggy Scruggs of Rush Springs, Oklahoma, and John Ruthstrom, Sr., of Houston, Texas.

Jacklyn Grace Phillips

Jacklyn Grace Phillips was born November 18, 2003. Proud parents are Darrell and Kristi Phillips of Durant, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Jackie and Marsha Percell of Durant, Roxanne Phillips and Gearld Brooks of Bokchito, and Jimmy and Terri Phillips of Durant. Her great-grandmother is the late Mildred (Nelson) Rinehart.

Braylee Nicole Beshear

Braylee Nicole Beshear was born at 5:54 p.m. on January 15, 2004, at McAlester Regional Health Center. She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. Braylee’s proud parents are Frank Beshear, Jr., and Tiffany Taylor, both of Krebs, Oklahoma. Her grandparents are Helen Lovett, Haywood, Robert Taylor, Jr., McAlester, Bill and Pam Baker, Krebs, and Frank Beshear, Sr., McAlester. Great-grandparents are Mack and Pat Boyd, Krebs, Betty Chambers and the late Bill Chambers, McAlester, Tony Santino, Bache, and Betty Beshear, Okmulgee.

BISHINIK deadline

Articles to be submitted for publication in the BISHINIK need to be received by the 10th of the month for the following month’s edition.

Spring Sale

30 Choctaw Hymns CD

Buy 1 Choctaw Hymn CD & Get Another 50% Off

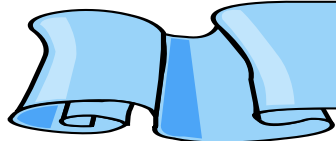
– Prices –

Sr. Citizen Price (55 & Older): \$17.00
Sr. Citizen Price 50% off: \$8.50

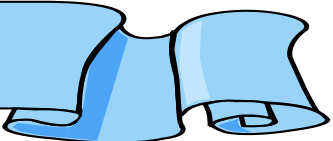
Regular Price: \$20.00
50% off Regular Price: \$10.00

Songs performed by:
Boiling Springs United Methodist Church, Allen, Oklahoma
To send payment or for more information:
Jefferson Frazier, Pastor
13969 CR 1554, Ada, OK 74820
Phone: (580) 272-0905
e-mail address: frazier_ron@hotmail.com

Hymns are in old and new tunes



OBITUARIES



Bennie Martin Harkins

Bennie Martin Harkins, 77, passed away February 5, 2004, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The eldest of four children, he was born July 21, 1926, in Shady Point, Oklahoma, to original Choctaw enrollees Adam Harkins and Lena (Whistler) Harkins.

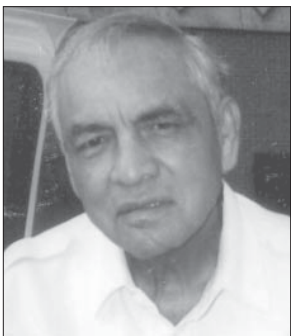
He lived in the LeFlore County area until moving to Broken Arrow in the fall of 1965. He served in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1947. He was a member of the Masonic Order, Grottos of North America – Amrita Grotto in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and Saba Grotto of Tulsa where he served as Monarch in 1973. He was also a member of the American Legion, VFW, Moose Club of Tulsa and Cosmopolitan Club of Tulsa.

Mr. Harkins was a retired teacher of 30 years, 16 in Broken Arrow public schools. The remainder of those years were in LeFlore and Haskell counties.

He married Oleta Maxwell on August 30, 1948.

His parents, and brothers, Troy and Jackie Dean Harkins, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Oleta, of the home; daughter, Joyce Farrimond of Checotah; grandchildren, Kari Rowe and Daniel Farrimond; sister, Lela Gaston of Ft. Smith, several nieces and nephews, and a large number of dear friends and relatives.



Willie Sim Durant

Willie Sim Durant, 77, of McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away September 6, 2003, at McAlester Regional Health Center. Born April 16, 1926, in Bennington, Oklahoma, he was the son of Frank and Ruby Folsom Durant. He grew up in southern Oklahoma, attending schools at the Goodland Indian School and also Antlers.

He moved to Arizona and California and worked for several years in the construction industry. When he retired, he moved to Talihina, Oklahoma.

He married Mattie Parton on July 24, 1984, in Talihina, and they later moved to Wilburton, where they lived for several years and moved to McAlester in 2003.

His parents and a sister, Ruby Spradlin, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Louise Durant, of the home; seven children, Leon Durant of Arizona, Linda Ogg of Wilburton, Dolly Claggett of Oroville, California, David Durant of Wilburton, Jimmie Durant of Fanshawe, Sheryl Young of Redding, California, and Jesse Durant of the home; an adopted daughter, Angela Johnson of Wilburton; a brother, Randle Durant of Talihina, now deceased; 19 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Louise “Lou” (Lambert) Benedict

Louise “Lou” (Lambert) Benedict passed away January 10, 2004. She was born in Idabel, Oklahoma.

She graduated from Goodland Presbyterian Children’s Home and lived most of her life in Nashville.

Survivors include her loving children, John W. Benedict and Jomonica “Jody” (Benedict) Phoenix. She will always be remembered by her many family members and longtime friends.

Froy L. Harris

Froy L. Harris passed away on January 28, 2004, at Methodist Hospital in Dallas, Texas. He was born in Mt. Herman, Oklahoma, to Edna and Floyd Harris.

Froy had worked for Texaco before becoming disabled.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, Ferrell A. Harris, Floyd Harris, Jr., and Freeman “Butch” Harris.

Survivors include his wife, Diana Harris; daughter, Robbie Harris, son-in-law, Alfredo Murillo, and daughter, Leticia Lewis; granddaughters, Cami Lewis, Krista Lewis, Jarrah Harris, and Teresa Murillo; grandson, Alexander L. Harris; sister, Fern Vicente of New Mexico; brother, Franklin Harris of Millerton, Oklahoma; three favorite sisters-in-law, Ruth (Harris) Jacob, Marry Harris of Valliant, Oklahoma, and Patricia Harris of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Also, Eriss McKinney, Hannah Blackowl and mother-in-law, Georgia McKinney of Idabel, Oklahoma; a host of nephews and nieces in the McCurtain County area and many friends in Dallas, Texas.



Bill V. Brumley, Jr.

Bill V. Brumley, Jr., 56, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, passed away February 19, 2004, at the St. John’s Medical Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born on October 29, 1947, in Oklahoma City to Bill V. and Emily (Eberle) Brumley.

Bill attended Meeker, Oklahoma, schools from grades three through eleven. He graduated from Shawnee High School in 1965. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1968 during the Vietnam war, serving both at home and abroad in Southeast Asia. After his honorable discharge in 1972, Bill returned home and graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University with a B.A. He went on to receive his Juris Doctorate law degree from the University of Oklahoma and an L.L.M. in taxation from the University of Denver.

Mr. Brumley was an attorney with the Brumley and Bishop law firm which was established in 1992 in Tulsa. He was a member of the Washington County Bar Association, the Oklahoma Bar Association, and the Tulsa County Bar Association. Bill was a former Deputy Attorney General for the Nevada Tax Commission. He was a member of the Tulsa Estate Planning Forum, Tulsa Pension Lawyers, and was a fellow of American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

His first wife, Dawn, and the mother of his five children, preceded him in death in August 2002.

Survivors include his two sons, William Bryant “B.J.” Brumley, who is in his third year at the U.S. Naval Academy, and Robert Andrew, in his senior year of high school at Bartlesville; his three daughters, Heather, who will soon have her law degree from the University of Oklahoma, Jennifer of Tulsa, who is attending junior college, and Hilary of Norman, who is also attending the University of Oklahoma; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill V. Brumley, Sr., of Bartlesville; two sisters, Ramona and her husband, Richard Wetherill, of Manassas, Virginia, and Emma and her husband, Mike Roberts, of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma; numerous nieces and nephews, and a host of other family and friends. Bill enjoyed being with his children and golfing. He was proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation. His paternal grandmother, Mary Elizabeth (Rushing) Brumley, was an original enrollee.



Ruth Anne Furr

Ruth Anne Furr, 68, of Earth, Texas, passed away February 16, 2004, at Dimmitt Nursing Home and Rehab. She was born July 4, 1935, in Hartshorne, Oklahoma.

She married John Gene Furr in Reno, Nevada, in October 1952. He preceded her in death in February 1984.

She moved to Earth from Carruthers, California, in 1981. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Earth.

She was also preceded in death by two sons, Mitchel Ray and Billy; and one brother, Jimmy Don Willis.

Survivors include her sons, John Furr and wife, Nacola, of Dimmitt, Jim Furr and wife, Jeanne, and Randy Furr and wife, Cindy, all of Earth, and Robert Furr and wife, LaQuita, of Lubbock, Texas; daughter, Cammy Smith of Mayes, Indiana; a sister, Betty Locastro of Carruthers; brothers, Robert Willis of Carruthers, Tony Willis of Bishop, California, and Tommy Willis of Coalinga, California; 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Elmer Sage

Elmer Sage, 69, of Alta Loma passed away February 5. He was born July 12, 1934, a twin, in Anson, Texas, as one of 12 children.

Following the family to Pomona, he graduated from Pomona High School in 1953. Retired from 27 years of working for the Retail Clerks, along with successfully owning A&B and Michael’s Market, he was a member of First Church of God, Pomona, the Moose Lodge, Pomona, and Retail Clerks.

Survivors include his three daughters and sons-in-law, Lional and Debbie Hardcastle, Jr., James and Barbara Mulhall of Ontario, and Danny and Brenda Rosales of Anacortes, Washington; sisters, Helen DeClercq of Shelby, Michigan, Ellen Forrester, Joan Kosse, and Shirley Sage, all of Alta Loma; brother, Raymond Sage of Upland; grandchildren, Jennifer Daudel, Lional Hardcastle II, Cody and Steven Hardcastle, Michelle Mulhall, Daniel and Amanda Rosales; great-grandchildren, Katlyn and Megan Hardcastle and Theodore James Daudel; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Wallace Keota Kie Gamble

Wallace Keota Kie Gamble, 48, of Lebanon, Oregon, passed away December 8, 2003, at Emanuel Hospital in Portland, Oregon. He was born in Flint, Michigan, to Baxter and Helen (Student) Gamble.

He lived in Oklahoma and California before moving to Oregon and graduating from South Albany High School. He entered the Army and spent three years in Germany as assistant to the judge advocate general. He later worked in research in the area of health recovery. He moved to Lebanon from Florida in June 2003.

He was proud of his Native American heritage and was a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He recently received the Warrior’s Medal of Valor from the Native American Nations of United States of America.

Mr. Gamble was an avid scuba diver and enjoyed being a scuba and tennis instructor.

Survivors include his mother, Helen Gamble of Lebanon; brothers, Baxter Kinta Pushmataha Gamble of Alaska and Talihina Kiaqua Durant Gamble of Portland; sister, Ramona Kiamichi Baxterdette Gamble-Isham of Lebanon; nephew, Lorne Isham; niece, Lorelen Lee; great-nephews, Dana Isham, Choctaw Lee and Dillon Lee, and great-niece, Michaela Lee. Wallace’s grandmother was Etta (Durant) Elmore of Henryetta, Oklahoma.



Alma Lula (Walker) Gooldy

Alma Lula (Walker) Gooldy passed away on March 6, 2004, with at her daughter’s home in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. She was born May 10, 1918, at the Walker home place near Kent, Oklahoma, the third child of Green “Tubby” Walker and Irrie (Ketchum) Walker.

Alma was very proud of her American Indian heritage and was a member of the Choctaw tribe. Her father, Tubby Walker, was an original enrollee.

She lived in Tulsa with her family for many years, returning to her birthplace during her senior years.

Alma was a loving mother and homemaker. She loved flowers and had quite a “green” thumb. She knew the Lord and stayed in the Word, even in her latter years through Christian broadcasting and music when her vision prevented her from reading. During World War II, she was a “Rosie the Riveter,” helping the cause of freedom at aircraft factories in California and Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; brothers, Woodrow Walker and Robert “Lois” Walker; sister, Hotona “Toni” Roebuck, and granddaughter, Rona Kayann Harrison.

Survivors include one sister, Oleta Bell of Goodland Route, Hugo, Oklahoma; three children, Joann Shoemake of DeSota, Texas, Cheryl Hein of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Ronald Harrison of Hominy, Oklahoma; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. All will miss her!

Lucille Gibson

Lucille Gibson, 91, of Durant, Oklahoma, passed away February 20, 2004, at Calera Manor Nursing Home. She was born in Calera, Oklahoma, on March 20, 1912, to Freeman Taylor Johnson and Lena (Jack) Jackson.

She attended schools at Lemon Hill. She was married to Bill Gibson who passed away in 1962. Lucille was a homemaker who loved to cook, quilt and garden. She was a Charter member of the Grace Indian Baptist Church. Lucille will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands, Daniel and Bill; infant son, Billy Joe; one grandson, four brothers and two sisters.

Survivors include a son, Donald Ray Gibson of Durant; daughters, Rose LaFlore and husband, Don, of Sherman, Texas, Ella Buck and husband, Tony, of Konowa, Oklahoma, and Edna Taylor and husband, Amos Junior, of Sherman; brother, Sweeney Johnson of Madill, Oklahoma; numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

Roger Barry Pope

Roger Barry Pope passed away January 13, 2004, at his home in Ardmore, Oklahoma. He was born September 14, 1962, to Raymond and Ramona Pope in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He spent most of his life in Ardmore. His late grandfather, Lamont Pope, Sr., was an original Choctaw enrollee.

Roger was a cook by trade. He worked for the El Chico Restaurant in Ardmore for almost 20 years. His boss had many good things to say about Roger. He had many good friends and was a good friend to many people. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother.

Survivors include his father and one brother, Bryan Pope, of the home.



Alma Cole-Ned

Alma Cole-Ned, 76, of Durant, Oklahoma, passed away February 22, 2004, at the Texoma Medical Center, Denison, Texas. She was born September 19, 1927, in Bennington, Oklahoma, to Robert and Mary Sanders. She attended Manning School.

Alma was married to Cecil Cole until his death in 1968 and was later married to Jack Ned until his death in June 2002.

She worked hard as a homemaker and dedicated her life to her children and family. She was proud to be 100% Choctaw Native American and supported the Choctaw Nation. She enjoyed gospel music, playing the piano, and arts and crafts. She was a member of the Sulphur Springs Methodist Church in Bennington. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, sister and friend who lived her life for her children. She will be greatly missed by many.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands; son, Danny Wayne Cole; brother, Alex Sanders; sisters, Samantha Williams, Lillian Hamill and Glassie Evans; and half-brother, Silas Billy.

Survivors include children, Terry Cole, Billy Ray “David” Cole, and Sandra Cole, all of Durant, Jeanie Rich and Rita James and husband, Marvin, and Carol James and husband, Darrell, all of Duncanville, Texas, and Dora Cole of Dallas, Texas; brother, Robert Sanders and wife, Vinita, of Bennington; sister, Lorene Blaine and husband, Silas, of Durant; 14 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of dear friends.



Margaret Seebeck

Margaret Seebeck, 83, of Boswell, Oklahoma, passed away February 12, 2004, at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma in Durant. She was born June 23, 1920, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, to Robert and Elizabeth Moore.

She married Ervin Seebeck on June 15, 1938. She was of the Baptist faith and had lived in the Boswell area for over 33 years.

Margaret was an artist, writer, and was published in several magazines and newspapers. She was the daughter of an original Choctaw enrollee and very proud of her Choctaw heritage.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Robert R. Moore, Alton Moore, and T.D. Moore, all of Boswell.

Survivors include her husband, Ervin Seebeck, of the home; two sons, Greg Seebeck of Springerville, Arizona, Mark Seebeck and LaDon Smith, both of Boswell; two sisters, Jeanne Kyrian and Geneva Brown, both of Boswell; five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.



Delbert Empson Tonubbee

Delbert Empson Tonubbee, 60, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed away October 21, 2003, at a Tulsa hospital. He was born July 13, 1943, in Grandfield, Oklahoma, to Empson and Lillie Mintz Tonubbee. He graduated from Grandfield High School and then entered the U.S. Army and served in the Korean Conflict. After his discharge from the military, he worked as the manager of Safeway Grocery Store in Durant and then worked for Brink’s Security in Tulsa. He was employed as a security officer at the University of Tulsa and as a security guard and clerk for Jubilee Liquor Store in Tulsa.

He was preceded in death by his father and his grandparents, Lewis and Bettie Tonubbee and Jerry and Seleah Pistubbee Mintz.

Survivors include his mother, Lillie Tonubbee of McAlester, Oklahoma; two sisters, Sherry Tonubbee Corbin of McAlester, Oklahoma, and Lila Tucker of Idabel, Oklahoma; a brother, Jerry Tonubbee of Sherman, Texas; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Matthew and LeeAnne Tonubbee of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and Craig Tonubbee of Tulsa; a daughter and son-in-law, Samantha and Nathan Thomas of Oklahoma City; four nephews, six nieces and a host of aunts, uncles and cousins.

Claretta Ann (Gatlin) Kennedy

Claretta Ann (Gatlin) Kennedy, 37, of Durant, Oklahoma, passed away January 22, 2004, at Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas. She was born September 24, 1966, in Denison, Texas, to J.T. and Clara (Pittman) Gatlin.

She attended Silo schools and graduated from Silo High School in 1984. She was a hair stylist for 19 years and was employed at Hair Masters in McKinney, Texas. She enjoyed crafts, working in the yard in the spring and people. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandmothers, Maggie Pittman and Lillian Gatlin; brother, Stan Gatlin, and brother-in-law, Frank Matney.

Survivors include her parents of Silo; husband, Jimmy Kennedy; daughters, Beth Hogue and Rebecca Stone, and sons, Dylan and James Tyler Kennedy, all of the home; brother, Roger Gatlin and wife, Judy, of Calera, Oklahoma; sister, LaNesa Floyd and husband, Ken, of Durant; nieces, Misty Coffey, Michelle Burgess and Maranda Hankins; nephews, Stacy Gatlin, Jeremy and Gerred Williams; aunts, Mary Paris, Ula Foote, Sue Gatlin and Loretta Norris; uncles, Wayne, Leo and Cloyce Gatlin; three great-nieces and two great-nephews; many other aunts, uncles and a host of friends.



Elizabeth Jane (Dyer) Wilcher

Elizabeth Jane (Dyer) Wilcher passed away February 6, 2004. She was born July 1, 1917, in Durant, Oklahoma. “Libby” was the youngest child born to Elliston E. Dyer and Nancy Jane (Wilson) Dyer. She was proud of her Choctaw and Scotch-Irish heritage.

She had lived a very interesting life and earned her pilot’s license in 1945. Libby was an admirer of the late Amelia Earhart and every aspect of aviation history. She worked in the war effort in Wichita during the Rosie the Riveter era, loved to read and collect books and did a great deal of woodworking. After the death of her husband, she returned to Durant to be near her sisters. She was a Pink Lady at Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma for many years, served as president and loved all their work, especially the annual chili luncheon. She was also owner and manager of the local newstand on Third Street for several years. Libby was a member of First Christian Church.

Elizabeth married Albert W. Wilcher in Wichita, Kansas, on January 11, 1952. He preceded her in death on December 22, 1976.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and all her siblings. Survivors include several nieces of the Tulsa area.