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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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August 2003 Issue

Fishing legend films show with Choctaw leaders

Promoting an anti-substance abuse message is one thing that Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle and world-famous professional fisherman Jimmy Houston have in common. Another thing in common is that they teamed up recently to film a fishing excursion for ESPN. While casting for the big bass in a Bryan County watershed, the Chief and fishing legend Jimmy Houston talked nonstop, with topics ranging from “best lures” to moral and spiritual issues.

Chief Pyle and Mr. Houston were joined by Assistant Chief Mike Bailey in the Bass Tracker, launching the boat shortly after daylight. As Chief Pyle reeled in the first catch of the day, the discussion turned to ways that people could be encouraged to “get hooked on fishing, not drugs.” This subject has been a hot topic with Jimmy Houston since news articles were printed this year about Jimmy Houston’s announcement that he refused to wear a Busch beer logo on his clothing and put the beer sponsor’s decal on his boat. This refusal means that the fishing legend has opted out of the running for BASS Angler of the Year, which he has won twice before.

Houston was quoted in a Baptist Press article that he could not comply with endorsing the beer sponsor because of “ethical, moral and scriptural reasons.” When asked if he had prayed much about his decision, Houston said he hadn’t needed to pray about it at all – the decision had been made long ago not to be involved with sponsorships from alcohol distributors. He said that he did not sell beer in his store, and he did not think it would be a good example to others to have a beer decal on his boat.

“I admire the conviction of Jimmy Houston to be a living testimony against the use of alcohol and drugs,” said Chief Pyle.

See **HOUSTON** on Page 3



Eric O’Kelley is presented a Choctaw Nation Tribal Scholarship by Executive Director Jack Pate for being one of this year’s top JOM students.

Top students honored

Top Johnson O’Malley students in the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Seminole and Creek nations were honored July 11 in Tulsa during the quarterly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes. Eric O’Kelley and Joy McConnell are the outstanding graduates awarded by the Choctaw Nation this year.

Eric, the son of Buddy and Janelle O’Kelley, is a graduate of Haileyville High School. His honors include Oklahoma Academic Scholar, Oklahoma Indian Honor Society and an Academic Team member for three years. The team was regional and conference champions for 2002-03. Eric was also a member of the Speech Team, Native American Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and FFA in which he served as Chapter President. Eric enjoyed volunteering for church activities and participating in food drives. He will be attending college at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, majoring in business.

Joy is the daughter of Mike and Pam McConnell. She graduated Battiest High School at the top of her class. She was a member of National Honor Society, Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society, Gifted and Talented program, the Scholastic Team, Quiz Bowl Team and was Student Council Class Representative for four years. She was also captain of the basketball team, voted most valuable player, a member of the McCurtain County All Conference Team, and a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is active in her community, participating in several programs including Reading Mentor, Adopt-a-Kindergartner, Youth Outreach, holiday programs for senior citizens, Roadside Beautification Project and Read Across America. She plans to attend Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, attaining her accounting degree.

In other business, the Inter-Tribal Council passed a resolution supporting the efforts of the Oklahoma Coalition of Title VII directors and coordinators who are requesting that the original intent of the Indian Education Act be followed. Parental involvement and provision of educational and culturally related academic needs of Native American children should remain a top priority of all Indian Education programs. The Inter-Tribal Council also supported the Native American Youth Leadership Development Initiative, designed to recognize the needs and enhance the skills of Native American youth in Oklahoma. The youth can assemble with peers and train through workshops and seminars, providing tribes an opportunity to develop leaders from within for future generations.

Also on the agenda and approved by the Council were resolutions supporting an annual American Indian Veterans Day; one Saturday each year in April as a National Day of Prayer and Fasting; Timmy

See **INTER-TRIBAL** on Page 11



JOY McCONNELL

HHS Deputy Secretary visits Choctaw tribal programs

It was an historic occasion this week when U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Claude Allen visited with tribal leaders of several Oklahoma tribes, including the Choctaw Nation, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Absentee Shawnee, Citizen Potawatomi and Sac and Fox Nations. Deputy Secretary Allen is the second highest-ranking official at HHS, headed by Secretary Tommy Thompson. It was the first time an official from HHS of this high ranking visited the Choctaw Nation.

Wednesday evening, June 25, and Thursday, June 26, were focused on the Choctaw Nation. The Deputy Secretary and other leaders from HHS met with tribal officials and directors on issues and concerns affecting tribal members who receive services from the Choctaw Nation.

The HHS team present included not only people from Washington, D.C., but from the regional and area offices as well. Linda Penn, Director of HHS for Region VI is the Secretary’s direct representative responsible for guidance and coordination of policies. Region VI, officed in Texas, facilitates in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Dale Keel, the Acting Director of the Oklahoma Area Office of Indian Health Service, also accompanied the team to the Choctaw Nation. Others joining them included Eric Broderick, Senior Advisor for Tribal Health Policy, Intergovernmental Affairs, Gena Tyner-Dawson, Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs, Willis Morris, Senior Advisor to the Deputy



Dale Keel, Oklahoma City IHS Area Director, along with Regional Director Linda Penn and Deputy Secretary Claude Allen of HHS came to Choctaw Nation to visit with Chief Gregory E. Pyle and other tribal leaders.

Secretary, and Patrik Johansson, Minority Health Disparities Intern, Office of Minority Health.

“Native Americans are the first citizens of this country,” said Deputy Secretary Allen when addressing the group. “In my job with the Department of Health and Human Services, we deal with a multitude of issues, including managing the fifth largest budget in the world.” He explained that he was visiting Indian Country to see the issues first hand. The Deputy Secretary said that major concerns included diabetes and hypertension. He also vowed to continue to work toward increasing resources as they are available to priority areas.

“We want to partner with you and hear your concerns. We also want to hear your solutions,” said

Deputy Secretary Allen.

“The Council and I were thrilled to have the opportunity to show Deputy Secretary Allen the Choctaw Nation programs and facilities,” said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. “It was an honor to let him, Regional Director Penn and others with the group see for

themselves what our tribe has to offer.”

The tour of Choctaw Nation included the field office, manufacturing complex, travel plaza and gaming center in McAlester, the Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talihina and site of the new clinic being constructed in Stigler.

Renovations okayed for travel mart

In Regular Session July 12th, the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council agreed to appropriate funds to renovate a recently purchased travel mart facility in Heavener. The operating systems will be upgraded as well as the appearance of the store.

Council members approved placement of Bryan County property in Trust status, and also agreed to give a right-of-way easement in favor of Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co.

Also approved were: a hay baling permit in Talihina, a recreational lease in Bennington, budget and supplemental funding for Head Start, audit services and discretionary funds for Council.

The next Regular Session is scheduled for Saturday, August 9, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Run-off election scheduled for voters in McCurtain County

A run-off election is scheduled August 2, 2003 for Choctaw voters to select a Tribal Council representative for District #1, which encompasses the southern part of McCurtain County. Candidates are Harrington “Hap” Ward and Thomas Rhea Williston. In the July 12th election, Ward received a total of 364 votes and Williston received a total of 185 votes. Four other candidates were in the race.

District #2, North McCurtain County, voted to keep incumbent Michael Allen Amos, who received 53.096% of the votes cast in that area.

The choice for District #8 Tribal Council representative continues to be General Perry Thompson, who received 84.375% of the vote.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Election Results - July 12, 2003						
DISTRICT 1 COUNCIL MEMBER						
Candidate Name	Idabel	Valliant	Absentee	Total	%	
John Wesley Epperson	26	13	49	88	10.824	
Harrington Ward	78	34	252	364	44.772	
John Williams	42	5	48	95	11.685	
Thomas Rhea Williston	115	11	59	185	22.755	
Jason Michael Baker	8	0	31	39	4.797	
Reginald Don Williams	14	3	25	42	5.166	
DISTRICT 2 COUNCIL MEMBER						
Candidate Name	Bethel	Broken Bow	Absentee	Total	%	
Michael Allen Amos	29	156	278	463	53.096	
Gary DeWayne Noah	1	20	31	52	5.963	
Kenneth Wayne Ashalintubbi	1	45	35	81	9.289	
Billy Paul Baker	29	92	74	195	22.362	
Jeffery Jefferson	26	27	28	81	9.289	
DISTRICT 8 COUNCIL MEMBER						
Candidate Name	Boswell	Ft. Towson	Hugo	Absentee	Total	%
General Perry Thompson	44	18	249	435	702	84.375
Lorn Adel Hampton	13	0	22	108	130	15.625

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Heroes come from every walk of life – sometimes with a rod and reel



It is nice to meet a real-life hero, and sometimes we meet them in the most unexpected places. I have been privileged to meet people of all ages whom I can define as “hero”. These heroes include, but are certainly not limited to, men and women who have served our nation in the military, people who volunteer their time for the needy, and people who work on a daily basis to improve lives of others. A hero in the shape of a fisherman emerged on the national scene about 30 years ago, and has become a wonderful role model for young people to follow.

This fisherman, the most well-known bass angler in the world, is Jimmy Houston, an Oklahoma native who recently hit the press with his announcement that he refused to endorse Anheuser-Busch, consequently refusing to wear a beer patch on his clothing or put a beer decal on his boat. Refusal to endorse Busch went hand in hand with giving up fishing for points needed to get in this year’s Bassmasters Classic tournament and compete for Angler of the Year, which Houston has already won twice. According to Houston, he never thought twice about it. The money that would have resulted from the beer sponsorship wasn’t important – his values and Christian beliefs were the significant issues.

Houston told us that his decision was validated shortly after the news hit the papers. He was doing a show in Florida and needed a place to leave his truck and boat while he flew to California for a ten day trip. A local dealership agreed to let Houston leave his truck and boat on the lot. When Houston returned ten days later, he found that

the dealership had polished up his boat and displayed it in the showroom. The first thing he thought of was how glad he was that there was no beer decal on the boat – he didn’t feel that would give a good testimony to the young people who would see it.

As I said earlier, I have met a tremendous number of people whose life is a heroic standard to others through their values and morals. Jimmy Houston is just one example of someone I have met recently who impressed me greatly. We met before sunrise one day with our rods and open face reels to film a show for ESPN, and throughout the morning as we laughed, talked and fished, we found a common thread of caring for young people. Assistant Chief Bailey and I talked about what the tribe was doing at Jones Academy for youth, how the drug prevention programs throughout Choctaw Nation are accomplishing a decrease in alcohol and substance abuse and about the housing and education programs that can improve the future for all of our citizens. Houston was especially interested in a youth basketball camp sponsored by the tribe at Southeastern Oklahoma State University that same day. We found out later that he stopped by the camp after our fishing excursion and spoke to the 110 kids who were there, encouraging them to better their lives, to stay off drugs and alcohol and to live life as a person they could be proud of.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is a positive role model for young people. Every word we say is heard by someone and every move we make is seen by someone. I aspire to live a life my children and grandchildren can be proud of.

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

Jones Academy begins holding classes on campus

Jones Academy will add a page to Choctaw history this August - the first and second grades are being taught on campus beginning with this semester. Over the next six years, classes will be added until all twelve grades are taught at Jones Academy. There are usually between 180 - 200 students housed at Jones, and since the 1950s, they have ridden the school bus to Hartshorne to attend classes. Jones Academy was established

in 1891, and the Choctaw Nation took over the administration of the school from the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1984.

Over the years, Jones Academy has become a National Residential Model, effectively operated by Administrator Brad Spears and his staff. They work very hard on behalf of the students.

The Choctaw Nation has installed a modular building to house the classrooms needed for

the upcoming school year, and a teacher will work full time with the young children. There will also be a full time Teacher’s Aide on staff. The academic program at Jones will have the latest technology, and will offer distance learning on numerous subjects for the children. The new library and computer lab will be utilized for the classes and meals will be served in the cafeteria.

The Choctaw Nation of Okla-

homa is very excited about the opportunity to teach the students about the language of our tribe and the Indian culture. Albert Einstein once said, “Education is a series of prejudices acquired by the age of eighteen.” Children are influenced immensely by the people around them and what they see and hear. We feel the tribe is much more qualified to teach the Native American students in ways that are culturally sensitive and will improve their self-esteem.



Houston continued from Page 1

“The Choctaw Nation has programs that battle substance abuse, and it is great to hear spiritual strength from a national sports hero such as Jimmy Houston. The message he is sending to youth across America shows that faith and commitment are much more important than worldly things.”

“It is heartening to team with Jimmy Houston to encourage better quality of life for youth by being involved in sports and other activities rather than submitting to drugs and alcohol,” said Assistant Chief Mike Bailey. “The Chief, Council and I are

advocates of healthy lifestyles. We have consistently supported sports activities being sponsored by the Choctaw Nation as well as backed programs to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.”

Houston’s television fishing shows air on ESPN with “Jimmy Houston Outdoors” and on ESPN 2 with “Jimmy Houston’s Sportsman Digest,” a part of the ESPN 2 “Outdoor Block.” He also airs a TV series, “The Bass’n Gal Tour,” dedicated to the women’s professional tournament trail.

Airtime of the show will be announced later.

Work continues on Capitol Museum

*Submitted by
Nancy Lowe-Clark
Museum Consultant*

Our Choctaw heritage and history developed very slowly over thousands of years. Putting together a museum which represents the Choctaw people of Oklahoma means taking careful, thoughtful steps in order to respect our heritage, to preserve the objects from our past and to educate museum visitors about our lives both past and present. Anything less would not properly honor our ancestors or respect our tribal members today.

Museum work, like history itself, tends to move slowly. Many, many work hours went into completing Phase One at the museum for Heritage Day. Major interior renovations, like the heating and air conditioning system, were extremely important for the long-term care of our cultural objects. Planning how to use the interior space helps us meet the needs of the museum now, and as it continues to grow in the years ahead. Basic repairs to the walls and floors and building exhibit spaces create the right setting for visitors to enjoy learning about our culture.

During Labor Day visitors will see many historical and cultural

objects from the museum’s collection when they visit the Oklahoma Room on the second floor. Exhibits on the Code Talkers, Choctaw Schools and Churches and Every Day Life will be well under way, even as research continues to add new information to each exhibit and the museum continues to seek donations of objects that will help tell the stories of Choctaw life in Oklahoma.

The museum continues to look for historical objects from the original Choctaw Code Talkers. At this time we have Joseph Oklahombi’s medals and his bow, several certificates recognizing the Code Talkers and a Code Talker telephone. To complete this exhibit, the museum needs other original objects belonging to individual Code Talkers like a uniform, or any part of one, that was actually worn by a Code Talker.

Additionally, the museum would like to find insignia patches or medals, anything that a Code Talker took with him when he joined the service, or used during his service, and/or letters written to or from family and friends during the war. Work is ongoing to produce a life-size photo mural and an audio element for the exhibit.

Other exhibits representing

life from the earliest days in Mississippi through the Trail of Tears are still in progress in the elevator room. Several artifacts will be added in this area, as well as Gwen Lester Coleman’s removal mural. The museum faces a challenge with these exhibits, which are planned to open in late 2004, as it has only a few historically accurate objects representing this part of our history. Countless hours have already been spent trying to locate the proper artifacts and many, many more hours will be needed to best tell this part of our cultural heritage.

Additionally, during the Labor Day Festival, a basket display is planned for the Art Gallery upstairs, along with the current photo display of all the Choctaw Chiefs. The Art Gallery will eventually house the art collection of the Choctaw Nation and provide space for temporary exhibits as well.

Everyone involved with the museum project considers it an honor to be a part of such important work. While the work is ongoing, we look forward to a brief break in order to enjoy sharing the progress thus far with visitors during the Labor Day Festival.



Chaplain’s Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

We thank God for the opportunity and privilege to share something from His Word with you each month. May He bring you closer to Himself is my prayer.

In the Book of Joshua we discover that Canaan is a place of warfare. Because of these records of military battles Canaan cannot be and is not a picture of Heaven. The Book of Joshua is a picture of the Christian and his enemy with whom he is fighting during all the days he is on earth.

The interpretation of this Old Testament book is found in the Epistle to the Hebrews and in the Epistle to the Ephesians. In the third and fourth chapter of Hebrews we find that the Land of Canaan is a picture of the spiritual rest and victory which may be enjoyed here on earth by every believer, a rest of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In the letter to the Ephesians (Ephesians 1:3), we learn of life “in the heavenly places,” not in heaven, but in the experience of being one with Christ and His victory while we are on earth.

A study of this Book of Joshua will reveal to us what God can do in and through the life that is completely sold out or yielded to Him.

The children of God had crossed the river Jordan and there was panic among the enemy because they saw the supernatural power of God among His people. But the Lord was not eager for his people to rush ahead and attack Jericho just because the enemy was panicked.

In this Book of Joshua, Chapter 5, at Gilgal, God taught His people lessons which were going to decide all the future course of warfare in the land of Canaan. The lessons taught at Gilgal are the basic and necessary lessons for living a victorious Christian life.

Gilgal became a key place for the children of Israel – a place of learning. I believe this is where many of us fail. Some Christians just don’t have a desire to study God’s Word to learn. If you have a sincere desire to study God’s Word, ask God to help you. He will reveal to you the truths He would have you know.

I recall, in the mid-fifties, in Tulsa, a full-blood Cherokee, Jess McLemore, came to know Jesus

Christ as his Savior at the age of 56 years. With a third grade education, Jess was determined to learn how to read both in the English and in his Cherokee language – he prayed and trusted the Lord to help him. Then he took his English New Testament and Cherokee New Testament and laid them side by side and learned how to read in both languages. Brother Jess would say, “If a man wants to learn about the Lord, God will help him.”

Now in the Book of Joshua, at Gilgal, in Chapter 5, we learn some very important basic truths for the Christian.

First, in the lesson of the two memorials of stones, we learn that the basis of our Christian life is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). It was only by the shed blood of Jesus Christ that has taken away the sin of the world. (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

Secondly, we learn here at Gilgal a lesson in the circumcision of the flesh that there must be death to ourselves and we must be completely yielded to Jesus Christ. A completely yielded life is a problem of many Christians today. We want to hold on to a pet sin, a lust of the flesh, and will not turn this sin loose and commit our all to Jesus Christ.

Joshua 5:11, 12 reads: “And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the Passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day. And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.”

Notice there are three days’ activity mentioned in these two verses. On the fourteenth day they kept the Passover, the very next day they ate of the corn of the land, and the day after that the manna ceased. This is how God responds when we are obedient to His Words. The manna was wilderness food. It was for their journey in the wilderness and this was continued until the corn was available. There is never any break between God’s supplies for His children.

Here at Gilgal the wilderness journey has come to an end. The murmuring and complaining and the desires of the things of Egypt



are over, the food that suited the wilderness journey is finished. The people take a new life in the land of blessing. Just as a born again Christian has new resources in our Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

There is something else we learn here at Gilgal. The Israelites are almost ready for the battle. Joshua has gone out to look over Jericho. Verses 13 and 14 of Chapter 5 says, “And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand; and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, what saith my Lord unto his servant?”

This was a blessed truth that God himself had come to lead his people to victory. The Captain of the Lord’s host is, of course, none other than that Great Captain of our salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

When Joshua worshipped before this great commander and fell at his feet, he accepted His leadership in this attack on the enemy. If we would only accept the truth that God has won our spiritual battles in Jesus Christ, and as we make Jesus Christ our commander we would know the secret of victory. The battles that we face as Christians here now is the Lord’s battle.

May God bless you in a very special way. Remember to pray for America. Pray for Native Americans. Pray for our leaders, both our government and spiritual.

Miss Oklahoma Kelley Scott advocates healthy lifestyle

Miss Oklahoma Kelley Scott was a guest speaker at the July meeting of the Diabetes Multi-Resource Task Force. Ms. Scott accompanied Turning Point representative Carol Bush to address the task force on the importance of increasing physical activity in our youth.

An outstanding softball and basketball player, Kelley created the KIX program (Kids into Xercise) five years ago after realizing that kids were spending too much time on TV and video games. KIX has four basic components – exercising with activities outside, eating from the five food groups, limiting TV and video to one hour a day and completing the KIX Club obstacle course.

Ms. Bush updated the group on the “Walk this Weigh” campaign. “The Choctaw Nation is one of eight communities chosen

to participate in the pilot program,” she said. “We are recruiting hometown celebrities such as Kelley Scott and Garth Brooks as spokespersons for ‘Walk this Weigh,’ promoting public health around physical activity.”

The program’s objectives include raising public awareness through a fun and innovative approach to positive weight management, achieving optimal fitness levels and advocating for nutritional and physical activity policies and standards in schools, worksites and health care systems. Each community takes its own unique approach to implementing the program.

The task force also voted unanimously to change the name of the group to “Healthy Lifestyles Task Force,” reflecting the continued focus on improving and maintaining a good physical condition.



REACH 2010 sponsors Youth Wellness Camps

The fourth annual Youth Wellness Camps, coordinated by CNHCC REACH 2010, were held June 18 and 19 at the Choctaw Nation Tribal Grounds in Tuskahoma. A total of 141 children attended the one-day camps, learning about healthy lifestyles, safety and overall wellness while having fun.

Gary Batton, Executive Director of Health Services, welcomed the attendees and reminded them of the importance of staying healthy and learning about diabetes.

The “Snake Man,” Albert Chambers, once again started the day off with snake safety. He presented his collection of poisonous and nonpoisonous snakes. The poisonous reptiles included a timber rattler, diamondback rattlesnake, and a copperhead. The kids were instructed on how to avoid snakes, what to do if you come upon a poisonous snake and what to do if you are bitten.

The Salad Sisters from the Diabetes Wellness Center made their appearance, providing song, dance and education on nu-



trition, diabetes, exercise and healthy lifestyle.

Gary Lawrence presented a program on bike safety and first aid.

Due to weather conditions the first day, Air Evac wasn’t able to be in attendance but the kids who were at camp the second day were able to see the Air Evac Helicopter land, look inside the

chopper and ask questions of the Air Evac staff. This was quite exciting for both the kids and adults.

John Hotubbee and his co-worker from the Choctaw Nation Recovery Center provided a session on drug awareness. Some of the youth got to experience the drunk driving goggles.

Duane Johnson of the Okla-

homa Highway Patrol discussed highway safety laws and allowed questions and answers from the kids. He also demonstrated a “stinger” and how it assists the Highway Patrol when they are involved in a chase.

Ernie Ables of the U.S. Forest Service provided information on the environment, different trees, poisonous plants and what to do if you come in contact with these plants. He also provided a goody bag for the kids.

The children also enjoyed a cultural awareness session, which included an arrowhead hunt, provided by Darran Cooper, Choctaw/Cherokee Native American artist.

Dayla Amos gave the Lord’s Prayer in Choctaw sign language before lunch each day. Lunch was followed by Native American dance led by Mr. and Mrs. Harry James of the Talihiina Indian Club.

Doris and Teresa from REACH 2010 led the physical activity sessions with water balloon games, tug-o-war, and volleyball with the four-foot omniball.

CHOCTAW NATION GED CLASSES

Bryan County
Beginning August 18, 2003
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex
South Building, Downstairs
Durant, Oklahoma

Pittsburg County
Beginning August 18, 2003
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
EOSC Campus, 1802 E. College Ave.
McAlester, Oklahoma

LeFlore County
Beginning August 19, 2003
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center
Poteau, Oklahoma

McCurain County
Beginning August 19, 2003
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
E.T. Dunlap Higher Education Center
Idabel, Oklahoma

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

Tumbler places at USTA Nationals

Candace Carter, 11, a Choctaw member of Newalla, Oklahoma, competed in the U.S. Tumbling and Trampoline Association, USTA Nationals. The competition was held in Rapid City, South Dakota June 18-22. Candace is a member of the KC Power Tumbling and Trampoline National Team out of Shawnee. She competes in all three events, Power Tumbling, Trampoline and Double Mini Trampoline. She brought home three medals and three trophies. She placed second in each of the three events in her flights and overall received third in Double Mini, fourth in Trampoline, and eighth in Power Tumbling out of 41 competitors. Candace joined the National Team after earning her position by competing at the Oklahoma State Competition. At State, she placed first in both Power Tumbling and Double Mini and received overall champion in two divisions. Last year, Candace went to the AAU Jr. Olympics in Knoxville, Tennessee and brought home a medal for Double Mini Trampoline. Candace had a support group of 14 family members who followed her to South Dakota – her mom and dad, Cindy and Patrick Stewart; brother, Kurt Carter; NaNa and PawPaw, Paul and Julie Oakes; uncles and aunts, Shane and Gail Allen, Paul and Diane Oakes, and Mike Oakes, and cousins, Shane, Tyler, Trae and Kolton. Her family originated from Hugo. They presented her a big bouquet of flowers and lots of hugs. Congratulations Candace on all your accomplishments. You are a rising star.



BATTLE Diabetes AND WIN

Diabetes is the fourth-leading cause of death among Native Americans in Oklahoma

Are *You* Diabetic?

Talihiina Area Choctaw's Walk for Diabetes Awareness

SYMPTOMS

- Frequent, extreme **THIRST**
- Excessive **URINATION**
- Excessive **HUNGER**
- Feeling very **TIRED**
- **NUMBNESS** or **TINGLING** in hands or feet
- **SLOW HEALING** cuts or sores

PREVENTION

- Walk regularly, move around more, eat less - *even a small weight loss can reduce your risk* for diabetes.
- Learn to make healthy food choices and be more active; a *weight gain* of 11 to 18 pounds *can double your risk* of developing diabetes.

For more information contact
Choctaw Nation Wellness Center

Toll-free 1-800-349-7026, Ext. 6066 Website www.choctawnation.com

Homebuyer Education Workshop

Do you dream of owning your own home? The Choctaw Nation Home Finance Department offers a variety of programs to help you become a homeowner. FREE workshops and homebuyer counseling services provide the information you will need to help you become a homeowner. THESE SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO ANY NATIVE AMERICAN – ALL INCOME LEVELS

Issues Covered:
• Budgeting • Insurance • Realtors
• Lending process • Credit issues

Classes will be held in the following locations:
Idabel August 12
McAlester August 14 (evening class)
Mesquite, Texas August 18 (evening class)
Atoka August 21 (evening class)

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



Hospital Administrator Bob Blum, Top Clinic Pharmacist Eddie Winn and Pharmacy Director Don Branham.



Hospital Administrator Bob Blum and Hospital Pharmacist of the Year Ross Green.



Hospital Administrator Bob Blum, officer John Beardon and Pharmacy Director Don Branham.



Hospital Administrator Bob Blum and officer Scott Hawkins.

CNHSA names Pharmacists of the Year

Each year, the Choctaw Nation recognizes pharmacists from the Health Care Center and field clinics for their efforts and accomplishments.

For the year 2002, LT Ross Green has been selected as the CNHSA Hospital Pharmacist of the Year. Ross is an excellent staff pharmacist who has aggressively taken on the duties of Assistant Director of Pharmacy. Ross is the primary pharmacy recruiter and a liaison with Southwestern State School of Pharmacy. He oversees the vaccine program, is actively seeing patients in the anticoagulation clinic and is constantly looking for ways to improve services.

LCDR Eddie Winn of the McAlester Clinic has been selected as CNHSA Clinic Pharmacist of the Year 2002. Eddie has been a faithful, dedicated pharmacist for the Choctaw Nation for 12 years, starting at the hospital in 1991 and working in the clinic since 1995. He serves as Deputy Chief Phar-

macist of the Choctaw Nation Indian Health Center in McAlester. Besides the normal duties as a pharmacist, Eddie has the responsibility of ordering pharmaceuticals and other pharmacy supplies, ensuring the pharmacy is always properly stocked.

Pharmacist Winn has also served as Assistant Facility Director. He was recently called upon for extra duties in the pharmacy as the Chief Pharmacist, was named interim Facility Director and spent many hours outside the pharmacy with other duties. He is a proven leader outside the Indian Health Center, serving as Chairman of Deacons at the First Baptist Church of McAlester.

Also recognized were newly commissioned officers Scott Hawkins, a pharmacist who is working at the Hugo Clinic, and John Bearden, a pharmacist at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina.

Eating fruit the “rainbow” way

There’s every reason in the world to eat fruit – health, taste, and beautiful colors. In fact, color is a great way to choose produce. By eating a rainbow of fruits (and veggies), you’ll get a healthy dose of all the phytonutrients you need to fight disease and stay strong!

1. Eat RED fruit.

Red fruits, like **strawberries, raspberries, cherries, watermelon and ruby grapefruit**, contain lycopene – a potent cancer-fighting phytonutrient. And, it’s easy to work toward your 5-a-day servings: one-half cup of fresh, frozen, or canned fruit equals a serving.

2. Eat WHITE fruit.

Even fruits that are white inside – **bananas, apples, and pears** – offer nutrients that your body craves: potassium, phytonutrients, and more fiber. And,

WIC

WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN

there’s more good nutrition news: Dried fruit counts toward your 5-a-day (one-quarter cup equals a serving).

3. Eat BLUE fruit.

Blueberries are one of the richest sources of disease-fighting antioxidants in the produce department. Fresh, frozen, canned and even dried – sprinkle them on cereal, add them to pancakes, toss them in salads, or just enjoy them as a yummy 5-a-day snack.

4. Eat GREEN fruit.

Green comes in a variety of delicious fruit flavors, like **green grapes, honeydew melon, and kiwis**. These versatile fruits are high in vitamin C – and they also

provide potassium and more fiber. One regular kiwi equals a 5-a-day serving, as do most medium fruits.

5. Eat YELLOW fruit.

Golden **pineapple** is probably America’s favorite yellow fruit. Fresh, or canned in its own juice; pineapple is a nutrition favorite, too. Just one-half cup equals a 5-a-day serving – and packs a healthy punch of vitamin C (and some fiber, too).

6. Eat ORANGE fruit.

Oranges are an obvious choice – but there are also **apricots, peaches, and cantaloupes**. Whole fruits have significantly more benefits than juice (like fiber) – but six ounces of 100 percent fruit juice can also count towards one of your 5-a-day servings.

Used with permission of Eat Right Montana.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

SEPTEMBER

2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <small>Labor Day</small>	2 Poteau (A-L) 9-2 Stigler 9-2	3	4	5 Poteau (M-Z) 9-2 Coalgate 9-10:30 Atoka 12-2	6
7	8 Broken Bow 9-2	9	10 Talihina 9-12	11	12 Bethel 9-10:30 Smithville 12-2	13
14	15	16 Wright City 9-10:30 Hugo 12-2	17	18 Idabel 9-12	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Food Distribution Sites

ANTLERS – Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 306 S.W. “O” St.

ATOKA – National Guard Armory.

BETHEL – Choctaw Nation Community Building.

BROKEN BOW – Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center.

COALGATE – Choctaw Community Center.

DURANT – Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr.

HUGO – Housing Authority.

IDABEL – Choctaw Village Shopping Center.

McALESTER – Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 1212 S. Main.

POTEAU – Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center.

SMITHVILLE – Big Lick Church.

STIGLER – Choctaw Community Building.

TALIHINA – Boys & Girls Club.

WRIGHT CITY – Choctaw Head Start Building.

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

Please bring boxes to pick up your commodities.

If you cannot pick up commodities when you are sched-

uled, please notify the Food Distribution Office at 580-924-7773 or 800-522-6170 so that you can be rescheduled to go to Antlers, Durant or McAlester.

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

Bass pro to visit festival

Don’t miss Team 7-Up pro bass fisherman Mark Goines at the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival. Goines will be at the kids’ fish pond to sign autographs and answer questions about fishing.



WELLNESS CENTER SCHEDULE

September 2003

Date	10 a.m.-12 noon	1-3 p.m.
September 2	Clayton - Gee’s Lake Store	Clayton - Gee’s Lake Store
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer’s & dementia education & prevention		
September 4	Goodland - Main Street	Grant - Choctaw Gaming Center
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer’s & dementia education & prevention		
September 9	Panama - across from Burger Run	Spiro - Sunset Corner
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer’s & dementia education & prevention		
September 11	Garvin - Main Street	Millerton - Main Street
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer’s & dementia education & prevention		
September 16	Hotubbee - Store	Stapp-Zoe Community Center
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer’s & dementia education & prevention		
September 19	Golden - Post Office	Wright City - Car Wash
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer’s & dementia education & prevention		
September 23	McAlester - Choctaw Travel Plaza	McAlester - Choctaw Travel Plaza
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer’s & dementia education & prevention		
September 25	Hartshorne - Across from Post Office	Hartshorne - Across from Post Office
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer’s & dementia education & prevention		
September 30	Hugo - Little Dixie Headquarters	Hugo - WalMart Parking Lot
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer’s & dementia education & prevention		

September Calendar

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY PROGRAM

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



Labor Day Gospel Singing

Sunday, August 31

Groups are not in order of performance time

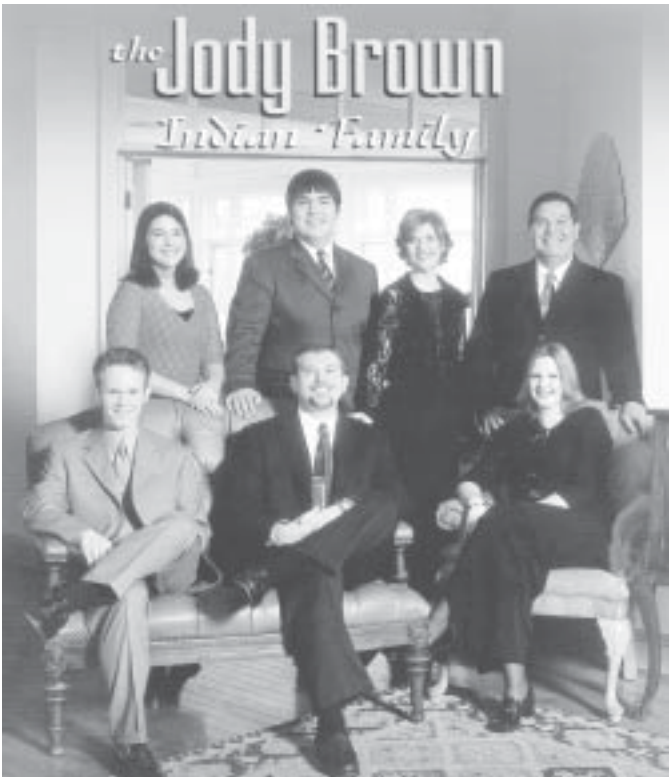
Chantri Harper
Tribesmen
Yoder Family
James & Inez Johnson
Norris Family
The Orphan Family
Crossroads
Bubba Johnson
Heavenly Places
Shelia Graver
Tulsians



John Cruise
Master's Touch
Sounds of Victory
Joyful Noise
Bill Amos
Battiest Family
Faith, Hope & Love
Chosen
Mel Gaines Quartet
Taylor Family
Christlike

Jody Brown Indian Family
The Whites
New Creation
Wright City Singers
Friends of Tulsa
Ivan & Ivanna Battiest
Jimmy Tushka Family
Singing Buck Family
Eastern Gate
Choctaw Hymns

If you feel that your name has been omitted from the list and you are scheduled to sing, please call Brian McClain or Sabrina Turner at 1-800-522-6170



TOUGH, TOUGH CHOCTAW CONTEST

6:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 30

\$5.00 Entry Fee
One Class Only
Sign up by calling
1-800-522-6170
Jeremy Loper, ext. 2407, or Freda Nixon, ext. 2406
or e-mailing
jloper@choctawnation.com

Chief Gregory E. Pyle Golf Classic

Labor Day Festival
Golf Tournament
Sunday, August 31, 2003
Nashoba Valley Golf Course
Nashoba, Oklahoma

9-hole course, par 36
4-man Teams • 18 teams
36 golfers for each start
Entry fee: \$50
– Limited to first 72 golfers –

For more information,
call Kevin Gwin
580-775-3982

Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival

Friday, August 29
thru Monday, September 1

FRIDAY

10 a.m.	Arts & Crafts Exhibits open
12 noon-1 p.m.	Broken Bow Youth Choctaw Social Dance on Capitol Lawn
12 noon-3 p.m.	Health Expo next to Council Building
12 noon-5 p.m.	Quilt entries accepted at the Museum
1:00-5:00 p.m.	Choctaw Nation/SOSU Basketball Clinic at the courts
1:30-Midnight	Annual Intertribal Pow-Wow on the Capitol Lawn
	1:00 p.m. Choctaw Social Dance
	2:00 p.m. Gourd Dance
	5:00 p.m. Break
	6:00 p.m. Choctaw Social Dance
	7:00 p.m. Grand Entry
7 p.m.	Fast Pitch Tournament begins at Red Warrior Park

CONCERTS – All Concerts are free of charge

4 p.m.	Cooder Graw
5 p.m.	Glen Bonham
7 p.m.	Tammy Cochran
9 p.m.	Rocking Roadhouse Tour featuring Joe Diffie, Tracy Lawrence and Mark Chestnutt

SATURDAY

6:30-7:45 a.m.	5K Registration at Hwy. 271
8 a.m.	5K Run starts at Hwy. 271
	Fast Pitch Tournament
	3-on-3 Choctaw War Hoops Basketball Tournament begins
9 a.m.	Playground supervised
	Co-ed Volleyball Tournament at Red Warrior Park
	Horseshoe Pitch on Capitol Lawn
	Quilt Show opens in the Museum
	Princess Pageant at Amphitheater
10 a.m.	Kids beadwork project on playground
10 a.m.-noon	Health Expo next to Council Building
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Supervised activities on playground
11 a.m.-dark	McKinney's Choctaw Dancers on Capitol Lawn
11:30 a.m.	Buffalo Tours (catch the bus next to Council Building)
2 p.m.-4 p.m.	McKinney's Choctaw Dancers on Capitol Lawn
2:30 p.m.	Tough, Tough Choctaw Contest (Registration conducted during the Horseshoe Tournament)
6:30 p.m.	All Concerts are free of charge

CONCERTS – All Concerts are free of charge

5 p.m.	Roy Clark
7 p.m.	Brian Gowan
9 p.m.	Neal McCoy
11 p.m.	Dwight Yoakam

SUNDAY

8 a.m.	Choctaw Nation Golf Tournament, Nashoba Golf Course
10 a.m.-8 p.m.	Health Expo
	Dominoes and Checkers Registration at Information Booth
11 a.m.	Worship Services at Amphitheater
	McKinney's Choctaw Dancers on Capitol Lawn
12 noon	Gospel Singing begins at Amphitheater
	Quilt Show in Museum
1 p.m.	Dominoes and Checkers Tournaments begin
	McKinney's Choctaw Dancers on Capitol Lawn
2 p.m.	Terrapin Races/Best Dressed Terrapin Contest on playground
2 p.m.-4 p.m.	Buffalo Tours (catch the bus next to Council Building)
4 p.m.	Broken Bow Choctaw Social Dance on Capitol Lawn
5 p.m.	Stickball Games on Capitol Lawn
6:30 p.m.	Gospel Singing continues with featured guests, The Whites, Christlike, Cross Road, Chosen, Jody Brown Family

MONDAY

10 a.m.	Posting of our flag by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard The Lord's Prayer by the Choctaw Princess Welcome and announcements Storyteller Tim Tingle
11 a.m.	Inauguration of elected officials State of the Nation Address by Chief Pyle Door Prizes
12 noon	Free meal to everyone Pick up quilt entries by noon

TushkaHomma,Oklahoma

Events throughout the Festival

- Carnival Rides Free, courtesy of Chief Pyle and the Tribal Council
- Cultural Demonstration at the Village 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday & Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday
- Mechanical Bull and Miniature Car Racing
- Stationary Wall Climbing
- "Let's Go Fishing" Bass Tank Demonstration
- Barreda Elephant Show
- Frog Jumping Championship
- Rob Robinson Pig Show
- Vortex Tunnel
- Vertical Reality
- Jurassic Park Slide
- Russell Turner, Magician

Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival T-shirt

Order Form

Limited supply of Children and XXX-L sizes

To order, send payment (No personal checks) with completed form to:
Labor Day T-shirts and Caps
Attn: Camia Elliott
PO Drawer 1210 • Durant, OK 74702-1210

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Item	Circle Color (if applicable)	Size	Quantity	Total Price
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Labor Day Shirt - \$15.00	Yellow or White	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Labor Day Cap - \$12.00	Yellow or White	N/A	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Labor Day Canvas Bag - \$7.00	Natural	N/A	_____	_____

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

Price includes postage and handling

Order Total

People You Know

Two have July birthdays

Happy birthday to Korey David Mueller who turned three years old on July 15 and to Haylee Elizabeth Mueller who turned one on July 11. Korey and Haylee celebrated their birthdays together with a party on July 12. Happy birthday to both of you – love, Mommy, Daddy and Bryce.



Charles is finally 18

Charles Simpson's niece, Bristina Colbert, and nephews, Billy Simpson and Kenan Battiest, would like to wish him the best happy 18th birthday. Charles turned 18 on July 11. He enjoys welding, fishing, bull riding and hanging out with friends.

His parents are William and Melinda Simpson. He has one brother, Bud, and two sisters, Linda and LaDonna Simpson, all of Golden, Oklahoma. His grandparents are Mary Carterby and the late John Amos Carterby of Golden and Mary Lee of Eagletown, Oklahoma.



Happy 16th, Bud

Bud's nephews and niece, Billy Simpson, Kenan Battiest and Bristina Colbert, wish Bud a happy 16th birthday on June 21. He enjoys being around his family and friends.

Bud's parents are William and Melinda Simpson. He has one brother, Charles, and two sisters, Linda and LaDonna Simpson, all of Golden, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Mary Carterby and the late John Amos Carterby of Golden and Mary Lee of Eagletown, Oklahoma.



Look who's two

Billy Jack Simpson's grandparents, William and Melinda Simpson, would like to wish him a happy second birthday on July 16. Have a happy birthday, from all of us, Grandma, Papa, brother Kenan Battiest and cousin Bristina. He has two uncles and an aunt, Bud, Charles and Linda Simpson. All are from Golden, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Mary Carterby and the late John Amos Carterby of Golden and Mary Lee of Eagletown, Oklahoma.



Bristina turns two

Bristina Cheyane Colbert turned two years old on May 26. She celebrated with her cousins at the Beavers Bend Resort Park. We would all like to wish her a happy belated birthday. Her parents are Linda Simpson of Golden, Oklahoma and James Colbert of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Hilda Colbert of Broken Bow and William and Melinda Simpson of Golden. She has three uncles and an aunt, Charlie Colbert of Broken Bow and Bud, Charles and LaDonna Simpson of Golden. Her great-grandparents are Mary and the late John Amos Carterby of Golden and Mary Lee of Eagletown, Oklahoma.



Happy birthday

Mady and Kaden Mullens recently celebrated their birthdays. Mady turned three and Kaden turned one, both on May 23. They shared a Sponge Bob Squarepants themed birthday party. Helping them celebrate were Nana and Papa James, Granny and Pepaw and Grandpa and Grandma Mitchell. Mady and Kaden's parents are Dustin and Mandy Mullens of Durant. Grandparents are James and Denise Mitchell of McKinney, Texas and B.J. and Lisa Mullens of Armstrong, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Marvin and Bobbie Mitchell and the late Jim and Doris Adcock, all of Durant.



Happy fifth birthday

Randall would like to wish his brother, Jordan Isaac, a happy fifth birthday on June 4. He celebrated at his home with a cookout with all of his family and friends. Jordan graduated from Chickasaw Nation Head Start in Ada. He enjoys playing volleyball and swimming.

His parents are Ricky and Rolena Bohanon of Ada. He is the grandson of the late Isaac and Lula Bohanon of Paris, Texas and the late Josh and Minnie Wallace of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. All of Jordan's uncles, auntie and cousin would like to wish him a big happy birthday and tell him we love him.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday wishes are sent to Charlie Ray Simpson, Jr. of Pullman, Washington who turned 19 years old in April.

Charlie says "Hello" to his Uncle Frank Simpson of Eagletown, Oklahoma and all of his cousins in Broken Bow, Oklahoma.



Happy birthday

Channin and Dylan Parker would like to wish their big sister, "Chele," a happy 15th birthday on June 22 and also wish her congratulations on winning 1st Runner-up in the District 7 Choctaw Nation Princess Pageant held in Wright City.

Chele is the daughter of Stacy and Tina Parker of Wright City. Grandparents are Virgil and Carolyn (Willis) Bohanan of Wright City and Lee Parker of Hugo, Oklahoma. She is the great-granddaughter of Robert and Melissa (Peters) Bohanan of Bethel, Oklahoma and the late Dixon and Melba (Benton) Willis of Wright City.



Maxwells celebrate birthdays

Anoli Maxwell and Miko Maxwell both celebrated big birthdays in May, with Anoli turning five and Miko reaching the big three. The children are siblings of Kalan Maxwell, who just celebrated the end of kindergarten at Bowen Elementary School in Louisville, Kentucky. They are the children of Zach Maxwell of Texarkana, Texas. Grandparents are Karol Carnes of Hugo, Oklahoma and Steve Maxwell of Eagle Pass, Texas. Great-grandmother is Hellen Hickman of Hugo, Oklahoma.



Kobe turns one!

Happy birthday to Kobe Gene Anderson from his Dad and Mom, brother and sister, Nana and Papa.

Kobe turned one year old on July 30.



Cody wishes his PePa a happy birthday!

Cody Wayne Elliott would like to wish a happy birthday to his PePa, Toy Marlow of Durant, Oklahoma.

Mr. Marlow turned 72 years old on July 25th.



Brandon Lee turns three

Happy birthday to Brandon Lee Felihkatubbe who turned three on July 24, 2003. Brandon was born in Wildomar, California to Robert and Dinah Felihkatubbe, who all now live in Monroe, North Carolina. Brandon is Choctaw, Irish and German. He is the apple of all our eyes and we love him very much.



Happy birthday, Dannie!

Johnnie and Christina Masterson would like to wish their little girl a very happy birthday. Danielle Masterson turns four on July 17.

Danielle is the granddaughter of Shari Vowell of Junction City, Oregon, Pat Garcia of Van Buren, Arkansas, and Louise Masterson of Corona, California. Dannielle is the great-granddaughter of Frank and Martha Vowell of Vian, Oklahoma.

Dannie enjoys her Barbies and books. She loves going to school and watching Choctaw dancing.



Moma's li'l slugger

We would like to wish a happy 6th birthday to Kayleigh Dawn Powell. She will turn six on August 26. Proud moma is Monica Blaine of Durant, Oklahoma. Kayleigh also has a big brother, Cody. Grandparents are Silas and Lorene Blaine. She has a very special aunt and uncle who reside in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, OHP Trooper Joe Jefferson and his wife, Teresa. Kayleigh would like to wish her special Uncle Junior and cousin Li'l Joe a very happy birthday in September.



Happy birthday

Melody Thorne turned two years old on July 21. Her sister, Aire, turned eight on April 14. Their parents and grandparents wish them very happy birthdays.

The girls are the great-granddaughters of the late William T. and Ella Murphy of Idabel, Oklahoma.



Belated birthday wishes for Peggy Scruggs

Belated wishes for a happy birthday are sent to Peggy "Granny" Scruggs of Rush Springs, Oklahoma. She turned 70 on June 10. She is the best grandma anyone could ever have. She has seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and three great-grandchildren on the way. We love you Granny!



Look who's 21!

Happy birthday to Mark Dean Tushka who turned 21 years old on June 12. We love you very, very much – from Mom, Leo, Patty, Eric, Grandpa and Grandma.

Mark is the son of Peggy Jefferson and the grandson of Barrentine and Nancy Tushka, all of Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

Ida Lewis Turner turns 97

My mom and best friend, Ida Lewis Turner, known to us as Pokeni, turned 97 years old on July 14th. My sons, Tony Enriquez and Mario Morales (a GI currently stationed in Iraq), and her great-granddaughter, Antonia Enriquez, want to wish her a richly deserved happy birthday.

She was born in Glover, Oklahoma in 1906 and just missed being an original enrollee. Raised in Golden, Oklahoma, she attended and graduated from Wheelock Girls Academy. She credits the good wholesome cooking and rigorous exercise regime at Wheelock for her longevity. Her parents were David and Lena Lewis.

Up till the last few years, she made and sold Choctaw Indian dolls. Her dolls reside all over the United States and in many countries, including France, England, Wales, Scotland, Germany, Australia and who knows where else.

We are very proud and have been greatly blessed to have her. Love you, Mom.



Happy 93rd, Myrtle!

Myrtle Adelia (Willey) McBroom celebrated her birthday recently. Myrtle was born June 16, 1910 in Newcastle, Oklahoma. Her father was Orren L. Willey and her mother was Josephine (Suds) Bench, an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation.

Myrtle now lives in the little town of Fruita, Colorado where her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, family and friends celebrated the occasion.

Myrtle thanks everyone for the cards, calls and visits.

We love you, Mom, from all your kids.



Happy 85th birthday

Thirty-four family members gathered at Tenkiller Lake near Tahlequah, Oklahoma to honor Pauline E. Robertson on her 85th birthday. Pauline was born July 14, 1918 in Durant, Oklahoma to Virgil and Pearl Labor. She has lived most of her life in Colorado and is now residing in California. She is very proud of her heritage and would also like to thank the Choctaw Nation for helping several of her grandchildren with their higher education.



Dylan turns eleven

Chele and Channin would like to wish their brother, Dylan Parker, a happy birthday on August 18.

Dylan is the son of Stacy and Tina L. Parker of Wright City, Oklahoma. He is the grandson of Virgil and Carolyn Bohanan of Wright City and Lee Parker of Hugo, Oklahoma and the great-grandson of Robert and Melissa Bohanan of Bethel, Oklahoma and the late Dixon and Melba (Benton) Willis of Wright City.



Happy birthday Little G

Steven Gene Qualls turned one year old on July 18. His parents are Gene and Penny Qualls. He has one sister, DeAnna. His grandparents are Cornelious and Janice Tonihka, all of Idabel, Oklahoma. Also, Mike Williams, Carol Qualls, and the late Steven Ray Qualls, all of Clovis, New Mexico. His great-grandparents are Joe and Minnie Berry of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. We all love you very much.



Jera turns three

Jera JuliAnne Davis of Texarkana, Texas celebrated her third birthday on June 27. She is the daughter of Keith and Sharon Davis of Texarkana. Her grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel, Oklahoma. Jera's great-grandmother is Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



He's growing up!

Nicholas Cole is going to be six years old on August 28. Nicholas is the son of Carri and Steven Cole of Atoka, Oklahoma. He is the great-grandson of Adam Betsey of Atoka and Annie Betsey of Durant, Oklahoma. We love you. May God bless you in the years to come.



Look who's turning 11!

Happy birthday Dylan Cockrill from your mom, Glenda; dad, John; sisters, Angie and Jessie; brothers, Chris and John, Jr., and Grandma Satterfield. Dylan turned 11 years old on August 20.

He is an A and B honor student at Hawthorn Elementary and All-Star minor baseball player.

We all love you! Keep up the good work.



Erica turns 14

We would like to wish a belated happy birthday to Erica Estrada who turned 14 years old on June 7 and to her big brother, Terry, who turned 20 years old on April 15.

We love you very much, from Mom and Dad.



John Barrett commissioned

John Everidge Barrett was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army on May 23, 2003. John attended the University of New Hampshire under the ROTC program and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History.

John is the son of John Louis Barrett and Martha (Shirn) Barrett of Pelham, New Hampshire. He is shown with his grandmother, Lula Belle (Everidge) Shirn. John is the great-grandson of Edward and Pearl Everidge (deceased) who lived near Hugo, Oklahoma. Edward Everidge was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation.



Herring receives leadership scholarship

The Eastern Oklahoma State College Development Foundation held its annual awards assembly recently on the Wilburton campus. Patrick Herring, right, of West, Texas received the George Nigh Leadership Scholarship presented by Eastern President Dr. Bill Campion. Herring will be a sophomore majoring in Criminal Justice and was elected by the student body at Eastern to be the new Student Senate President for the 2003-04 school year. He was also very active and held office in various campus organizations including the Criminal Justice Club as Activities Director, Photography Club Student Senate Representative as well as a member of the Aggie Club.

Herring also represented the Native American Student Association as a Student Senate Representative. He was involved in campus activities ranging from the Christmas toy drive to helping with livestock shows. In addition to his many activities, he was selected to the Dean's Honor Roll.



Award-winner

Cheyenne Fields received several awards at Shields Heights Elementary School – music award and medal, reading award and medal, Indian Education trophy, citizenship medal, 4th/5th grade Talent Search ribbon from Duke University and a Certificate of Achievement from Jim Thorpe Bright Path Club. She also made all A's on her report card.

Cheyenne's mother is Darlene Bohanon Fields. Her grandparents are Danuta Bohanon and Sammy Bohanon. She is the great-granddaughter of Robert Bohanon and Myrtle Bohanon. Her great-great-grandfather was original enrollee Sam Bohanan and great-great-grandmother was Lou Ella Blevins Bohanan Baucom.



Congratulations!

The family of Sue Stevens would like to congratulate her on all of her accomplishments while attending the Hugo Kiamichi Technology Center. Sue received a certificate for perfect attendance for the school year, an Excellence Award certificate, a certificate for 65 hours of community service, being elected into the National Vocational Technical Honor Society and receiving a plaque for her dedication, willingness to serve and leadership skills. She earned a certificate of completion for Phlebotomy Technician and Clinical Medical Assistant while maintaining an A average.

Sue is the wife of Rick Stevens and the mother of Matthew Sam of Boswell, Oklahoma.



Lusk on Oklahoma Gold baseball team

Yukon High School's Clint Lusk was infielder for Oklahoma Gold in the Seventh Annual Junior Sunbelt Classic, held in McAlester and Hartshorne in June. He was a starter at shortstop for the Millers as a sophomore and a junior.

Clint is the grandson of Ruby Faye Walker.



Jr. high honor graduate

John D. Hale graduated Jefferson Jr. High School with honors on May 23, 2003. He played the National Anthem solo for the graduation program with his trumpet. John received the American Legion School Award in recognition of his high qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism and scholarship. He also completed the Texas Rural Leadership Program and received a Certificate of Completion and Accomplishment. John received the Jefferson Jr. High Band Award for 8th grade Outstanding Top Brass and Perfect Attendance Certificate, 2002-03 school year. He's a man with a plan!



Elkins is New Mexico's All-Around Cowgirl

Kelsi Elkins, 16, has earned her fourth All-Around Champion saddle this year in New Mexico's High School State Finals Rodeo at Red Rock State Park in Gallup. After just missing out on qualifying for the NHSFR last year, Kelsi grabbed the barrel racing state title and also qualified for nationals in the pole bending and goat tying. She also nailed down the season girls' all-around state title and the state finals girls' all-around title.

Competing in five events, Kelsi, who plays basketball during the three-month break from rodeoing, finished first in the barrels and third in both the poles and goats. She also competes in breakaway and team roping. A sophomore at Aztec High, she is on her way to nationals for the second year in a row.

Kelsi is the daughter of Ron and Jana Elkins, the granddaughter of Carol Bandy and the great-granddaughter of original enrollee Laura Winnie Stowers of Madill, Oklahoma.

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.

Eagletown's valedictorian

Congratulations to Crystal Ashalintubbi, valedictorian of this year's senior class at Eagletown High School. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Ashalintubbi.

Crystal has a 4.0 grade point average and was president of her FFA chapter and of her senior class. She was secretary of the National Honor Society and a member of both the Oklahoma Honor Society and the Oklahoma Indian Honor Society.

She plans to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College where she will receive the full Presidential Scholarship. Crystal was also awarded the Otha Grimes Agriculture Scholarship, two land judging contest scholarships, the Jade Ashalintubbi Memorial Scholarship, the Jeremy Short Memorial Scholarship and the Teresa Black Memorial Scholarship. She will be majoring in animal science.



Missouri boy is growing up

Danny Betsey II is going to be five years old on August 20.

Danny's parents are Danny and Linda Betsey of Granby, Missouri. He is the grandson of Shirley of Granby, Adam Betsey of Atoka, Oklahoma and Annie Betsey of Durant, Oklahoma. Happy birthday!



Happy 84th birthday

Lee Fowler turned 84 on July 16. His great-grandmother, Ida Stewart was an original enrollee. Lee is husband to Lois, a father, brother, uncle and grandfather. Happy birthday! Your family across this nation wish you well!

Gardner joins Red Sox

The Boston Red Sox drafted Jarrett Gardner of Moore, Oklahoma in the 19th round of the 2003 MLB draft conducted on June 3. Jarrett, the son of Gary Gardner and the grandson of the late Chief David Gardner, was a 1999 graduate of Moore High School and coached by Chris Crosbie. He received All-State honors while in high school as a shortstop and attended Rose State College after graduation. He played shortstop/pitcher for the Raiders in the 2000-01 season. He was an All-Conference pitcher and played shortstop/pitcher for the Raiders in the 2000-01 season. He was an All-Conference pitcher and shortstop while at RSC under Lloyd Cummings.

From there he was recruited by the University of Arkansas as a pitcher. He began the 2002 season as the closer for the Razorbacks, but soon moved into the starting weekend conference role.

This 2003 season, Jarrett was the Friday night starter as well as one of the captains for the Razorbacks. On March 10, he was named the SEC Pitcher of the Week and the NCBWA National Pitcher of the Week after recording a save against Kansas and a win against South Carolina in the same week. Jarrett ended his season with a 4.63 ERA and setting a new record for Arkansas and the SEC for the fewest walks in a season. He pitched 86.1 innings with three walks and 53 strikeouts in the regular season. After the SEC tournament and regionals he ended the year with 93.1 innings, 5 walks, and 58 strikeouts.

He left June 8 for Lowell, Massachusetts to start his minor league career and will return in September. Jarrett will return to Arkansas in the fall to finish his college education and graduate in December with a degree in kinesiology. Congratulations, Jarrett!

O'Kelley named salutatorian

Eric Chase O'Kelley was named the salutatorian for the graduating class of Haileyville High School for 2003. Eric attended Haileyville Schools for 13 years. He has been named as an Oklahoma Academic Scholar by the State Superintendent's office. His other achievements include being a member of the National Honor Society, Oklahoma Honor Society, the OK Indian Student Honor Roll, an All-American Scholar, Who's Who Among American Students and the National Honor Roll. Eric will attend the University of Oklahoma in the fall where he will major in business. Eric is the son of Buddy and Janelle O'Kelley of Hartshorne and the grandson of Jimmy and Roena O'Kelley of Hartshorne and Bill and Ann McCullar of Gowen. His great-grandparents are Arvil and Ima Barnes of Hartshorne.



National honor student

The U.S. Achievement Academy has announced that Tyler Michael Sands of Okemah, Oklahoma has been recognized for academic achievement as a National Honor Roll Award winner. Tyler, 12, who attends Noble Middle School, will appear in the academy's official yearbook, which is published nationally.

He is the son of Mike and Barbara (Baker) Sands of Okemah. Grandparents are Elton and Josephine Baker of Idabel, Oklahoma and Jonah and Bertha Sands of Castle, Oklahoma.

All-American scholar

The U.S. Achievement Academy announced that Nakisha Zilliox of Wright City, Oklahoma has been named an All-American Scholar. A student at Wright City High School, Nakisha was nominated for this national award by Penny James. Nakisha will appear in the All-American Scholar Yearbook, which is published nationally.

Nakisha is the daughter of the late Duke and Terri Zilliox. She is the granddaughter of Mary E. Watson of Wright City.



State Champions

Choctaws Lance Wallace, Tony Colungo, Chance Wallace and (not pictured) Marvin Wallace were members of the State Champion USSSA team. They are pictured with their coach, Antoine Colungo.

Mom, son are All-American Collegiate Scholars

Karen L. Poehler and Michael D. Poehler of Vero Beach, Florida have been named All-American Collegiate Scholars by the U.S. Achievement Academy. Karen, who attends Indian River Community College, is the daughter of Roy and Barbara Gardner of Vero Beach. Michael also attends Indian River Community College and is the son of Karen and Mike Poehler. His grandparents are Roy and Barbara Gardner of Vero Beach and Rosalie Poehler of Flora, Florida.

Blaine places second in golf tourney

Cody Blaine competed in the Durant Daily Democrat Annual Jr. Golf Tournament in July. He placed second in the 11- to 12-year-old division with a score of 86. He is one-quarter Choctaw and proud of his heritage. Cody will also compete in the Jr. Native American National Golf Tournament in Sante Fe, New Mexico later this month, representing the Choctaw Nation. Proud mother is Monica Blaine and grandparents are Silas and Lorene Blaine. His sister, Kayleigh, and family would like to wish him good luck as he competes in Sante Fe.



Tupelo Students of Today

Congratulations to Tupelo Students of Today Brittanie Williams and Trenton Walkup, Jr. High, and to eighth grade graduates Amanda McClure, Samantha Guffey and Brittanie Williams.

Eeds going to Nationals

Kari Jo Eeds, a graduate of Merritt High School and the daughter of Ray and Nancy Eeds, earned a position on the Oklahoma High School Rodeo Team and a trip to Farmington, New Mexico for the 55th Annual National High School Finals Rodeo in the goat-tying event. She was named goat-tying champion at the Oklahoma High School Finals Rodeo in June.

The NHSFR features over 1,500 contestants from 39 states, five Canadian provinces and Australia vying for over \$125,000 in prizes, more than \$150,000 in college scholarships and the honor of being named the National High School Rodeo Champion.



Student completes "future astronaut training"

Aaron Reynolds, son of Juliana James Reynolds of Tulsa, attended level one of the Future Astronaut Training Program at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson. Developed by Cosmosphere staff, the intense week-long program incorporates actual astronaut training with briefings on subjects ranging from how the body reacts to spaceflight to principles of rocketry. Campers also receive up-to-date human spaceflight news including status of the space shuttle Columbia accident investigation. The nationally recognized camp strives to motivate and inspire careers in space-related industries in an environment that emphasizes teamwork and problem solving. For more information on the Future Astronaut Training Program, call 1-800-397-0330, ext. 304, or visit the Cosmophere's website at www.cosmo.org.

Elsik High School grad

Jenifer Brixey recently graduated magna cum laude from Elsik High School in Houston, Texas. Jenifer is the daughter of Jack and Juliana Brixey, granddaughter of Ella (Frazier) Smith and great-granddaughter of Noah Frazier of Tushka, Oklahoma. She was vice president of the Elsik Orchestra and plays the same violin that her great-grandfather played. She is a member of the National Science Honor Society, danced in the Alief Jazz Ballet troupe, and was president of the German club. Jenifer recently tested for her second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. She has received a Carter Revard Scholarship from Washington University in St. Louis where she will study mechanical engineering.





Gift for Chief

A beautiful homemade quilt was presented as a gift for Chief Greg Pyle by Ofsie Horne, Raymond Dillard, Mozelle Dillard Hunter and Nadine Dillard Lewis.

Desiree Noah wins beauty pageant awards

Desiree Denisa Noah of Broken Bow, Oklahoma has won a crown and a trophy in the 5-and-up age division of the Magical Seasons Miss Spring Blossom 2003 pageant in Broken Bow. She received a trophy in the photogenic competition and earned medals for prettiest eyes, hair, smile and best fashion.

She also won first runner-up in the Magical Seasons Miss American Spirit 2003 pageant held in Wright City.

Desiree graduated from Choctaw Nation Head Start in Broken Bow. She enjoys singing gospel music and is looking forward to singing at this year's Choctaw Labor Day Festival at Tushka Homma.

She is the five-year-old daughter of Kenneth and Katie Noah of Broken Bow. She has two sisters, Tia and Krystal, who love her very much. Her grandparents are Lena Battiest and the late Esau Battiest of Broken Bow, Annie Noah of Battiest, Oklahoma and the late Lee Noah, Sr., Helen Battiest and the late Isaac Battiest, Sr. of Broken Bow.

Desiree and her sisters want to wish their daddy a very special happy birthday. We love you daddy!



Celebrating 65th

Mr. and Mrs. H.D. Blythe, Jr. of Amarillo, Texas celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in July. H.D. Blythe and Claudia Flowers were married on July 24, 1938 in Hereford, Texas. They have four daughters, nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren who love and adore them and are so grateful to have them in their lives. They have been an inspiration to all their family. Mr. and Mrs. Blythe are very proud of their Choctaw heritage and have instilled that pride in their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Their family wishes them many more wonderful years together.



55th anniversary

The family and friends of Robert and Melissa Bohanan are delighted to wish them a happy 55th wedding anniversary on July 24 and would like to wish Melissa a happy birthday. Melissa turned 70 years old on June 2. She loves to fish and hunt and to spend time with her kids and grandkids.

Wishing their parents a happy anniversary are Virgil and Carolyn, Kenneth and Eunice, Youlanda, Melinda and Lyndell, Mary, Austin and Linda, Emilou, Jimmy and Betty, Tony and Brenda, Herbie, and Lois, their 26 grandkids and 24 great-grandkids. We love you very much!



Golden years

Happy anniversary to Clark and Peggy Holder of Dallas, Texas. They celebrated their golden anniversary on July 23.

Thanks for 50 good years.



Wedding bells

Orvella Amos became the bride of Glen Harjo on June 17, 2003 in a 4 p.m. ceremony at a wedding chapel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The bride is the daughter of Bill and Louise Amos of Garvin, Oklahoma. She is employed at Oklahoma Farmers Insurance in Oklahoma City. Glen is employed at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City.

Following the ceremony, guests were treated to a buffet at Excalibur Inn. After a short honeymoon in Las Vegas, the couple set up residence in Midwest City, Oklahoma.

Congratulations from Mom and Dad, Mike and Vicky, Nancy and Ron, Justin, Dayla, Derrick, Nikki, Zachary and Andrew.

Bender, Smith marry

Tara Janell Bender of Shawnee, Oklahoma and Eric Ryan Smith of Hominy, Oklahoma were united in marriage May 17, 2003 at Peace Garden in Shawnee.

The bride is the daughter of Bennie Joe and Deloris (Frazier) Bender of Shawnee. The groom is the son of David and Michelle Smith of Hominy. Eric and Tara now reside in Reno, Nevada.



Nursery News

Randol Lee Chance Aunquoe

Randol Lee Chance Aunquoe was born at 11:45 a.m. on June 18, 2003 at the Women's Center of Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma in Durant. He weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 20 inches in length. Parents are Gregg and Amber Aunquoe of Bennington, Oklahoma. He has a sister, Shelbi Lynn.



Jenna Amielle Gardner

Making an entrance is Jenna Amielle Gardner, born January 17, 2003 in Durant, Oklahoma. She was 7 pounds, 6.2 ounces and 19 inches long. Jenna is the daughter of Ronald and Teresa Gardner of Durant. She is also the granddaughter of Stanley and Divina Gardner of Las Vegas, Nevada, Charles and Mary Holt of Durant, and Sabrina and Troy Blake of Madill, Oklahoma. She has an older sister, Mercedes Garcia, who is ten years old, and she has a twin set of brother and sister, Andrew and Alexus Garcia, who are nine.



Jessica Marie Hyland

Dustin and Joshua Hyland would like to announce the arrival of their new baby sister, Jessica Marie Hyland. Jessica was born at 1:14 p.m. on June 16, 2003 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 18.75 inches long. Proud parents are Frank and Janice Hyland of Grant. Grandparents are Janet "Gan-Gan" Phillips of Unger, Oklahoma and Minnie and Jerry Gaither of Hugo, Oklahoma. We would like to wish a late Happy 11th Anniversary on June 20 to Moma and Daddy.



Paige Madison Williams

Paige Madison Williams was born March 25 to Preston and Dana Williams of Oklahoma City. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces. Grandparents are Mark and Donna Concienne of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma and Michael and Gay Williams of Oklahoma City. She is the great-granddaughter of Nell Wilson of Marlow, Oklahoma; great-great-granddaughter of Billie Ireland of Duncan, Oklahoma and the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollees Thompson Wilson and Nellie Hayes Wilson. Paige says, "Chahta sia hoke!"



Meladee Leelayn Allison

Chad and Jeaniene Allison of Lindsay, Oklahoma are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Meladee Leelayn, born April 23, 2003 at Carl Albert Indian Hospital in Ada, Oklahoma. Meladee weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 18.5 inches.

Meladee was welcomed by three sisters and a brother, Saydi, Ellanee, Abbee and Tanner.

Grandparents are Jean Work of Lindsay, Gary Work of Talihina, Charley and Debbie Allison of Hennipin, Oklahoma and Connie and Dennis Avance of Lindsay.

Great-grandparents are Loyd and the late Nellie Taylor of Lindsay, Betty and David Allison of Elmore City, Oklahoma and Clarence and Wanda Pratt of Lindsay.



Guy Rowdy Brimage

Guy Rowdy Brimage was born at 10:25 a.m. on May 26, 2003 at Parkview Hospital in El Reno, Oklahoma to John and Kim Brimage. Guy weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and he measured 19.5 inches in length.



Reagan Nicole Harris

Billy and Shalene Harris of Norman, Oklahoma are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Reagan Nicole Harris, born at 5:36 p.m. on April 10, 2003 in Norman Regional Hospital. She weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

Grandparents are Winford and Joanne Coon of Lindsay, V.H. Harris of Ninnekah, Oklahoma and Cheryl Harris of Enid, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents include Gene and Dorothy Harris of Ninnekah and Joe and Maggie Hays of Kalispell, Montana. Reagan is also welcomed by many aunts, uncles and cousins. She is the descendant of Choctaw enrollee Amy Anderson.



Justin Wyatt Cameron

Little Budgie Glen Cameron would like to announce the birth of his baby brother. Justin Wyatt Cameron was born May 29, weighing in at 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 inches long. Justin's proud parents are Robert "Budgie" and Candace Cameron. Proud grandparents are Robert and Gaye Cameron of Chelsea, Oklahoma, Tweety and Pamela Forbo of Vinita, Oklahoma and David Newby of Alabama. Proud great-grandparents are Pat Lutz and the late Glen Lutz of Chelsea, the late Cleo Creekmore of Jay, Oklahoma and Jessie and Marie Cameron of Battiest, Oklahoma.

Justin was welcomed home by his half-brother, Dylan Robert Cameron of Mannford, Oklahoma; cousin, Dakota of Pryor; aunts, Kiki, Brandy and Ashley of South Dakota, uncles, Travis and Josh; special friends, Jeff and Carla Steel and family, and many others.



McKenzie Rose Loma

McKenzie Rose Loma was born on February 1, 2003 at Stillwater Medical Center in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces. Her proud parents are Daniel and Dawn Loma of Stillwater. McKenzie has two brothers, Brennan and Taylor. Her grandparents are Glenda and Edward Loma of Battiest, Oklahoma and Jean and Harold Hite of Stillwater. Great-grandparents are Velma Johnson of Stillwater, the late Carlo and Esien Wade, and the late Sarah Obe of Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

McKenzie would like to wish her Daddy a happy birthday on July 1st!



Kathleen Elizabeth Battiest

Kathleen Elizabeth Battiest was born Sunday, April 27, 2003 in Lawton, Oklahoma. She weighed 8 pounds and was 20.5 inches long. Proud of their first born are her parents, Walker and Jamie Battiest of Duncan, Oklahoma. Proud grandparents are Debbie Battiest and the late Allen Battiest and the Rev. Ronald and Veta Howard, all of Duncan, and Flora Howard of Marlow, Oklahoma.



Angelina "Angel" Maree

Angelina "Angel" Maree was born at 1:30 p.m. on June 7, 2003 in Idabel, Oklahoma to a very proud mama, Amanda "Red" LeAnn Willis of Battiest, Oklahoma. Angel weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 18 inches long. Grandparents are Elesten and Nima Willis, Jr. of Broken Bow, Oklahoma and Charlotte Willis of Battiest. Great-grandparents are Lillie Willis of Battiest and Delois Farley of Gillham, Arkansas. Great-great-grandmother is Gladys Price of DeQueen, Arkansas.



Teagan Demcy Smith

Teagan Demcy Smith was born at 10:02 p.m. on June 11, 2003 at Unity North to Tara and Eric Smith of Shawnee, Oklahoma. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20 inches long. Grandparents are Bennie and Deloris Bender of Shawnee and David and Michelle Smith of Hominy, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents include Nora Fox of Shawnee, Ella Bender of Cromwell, Oklahoma, Orville and Nadean Myers of Bartlesville, Oklahoma and Pete and Nancy Smith of Barnsdall, Oklahoma.



Kaya Faith Selman

Cheyenne Selman would like to welcome her new baby sister, Kaya Faith, to the family and to God's big world. Kaya was born May 13, 2003 at Valley View Hospital in Ada, Oklahoma to her very proud parents, William Ross and Kerry Selman of Haywood, Oklahoma. She weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Her proud family includes grandparents, Nickey and Anna Mae Beal of Coalgate, Oklahoma and Ross and Jo Ann Selman of Haywood; aunts Kim Ybana of Tuttle, Oklahoma, Lisa Price, and Brenda Lankford of Haywood, and great-grandmother, Joyce Ott of Haywood.

What a precious Mother's Day gift from the Lord.



Kylie Alyssa James

Cameron James would like to announce the birth of his baby sister, Kylie Alyssa James, born on May 20, 2003. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Her parents are Abbie James II and Atalya Noah.

Armando Christopher Stewart

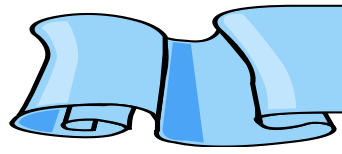
Armando Christopher Stewart was born June 6, 2003 at McCurtain Memorial Hospital in Idabel, Oklahoma to Steven and Chrismina (Bicenti) Stewart and big brother Stefano, all of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Armando weighed 7 pounds.

Proud grandparents are Louis and Gloria Bond of Broken Bow, Louise Bicenti of Pueblo Pintado, New Mexico, the late Henry Bicenti and Steven Jr., Steven Sr. and Eunice Stewart. Proud great-grandparents include Barrentine and Nancy Tushka of Broken Bow.

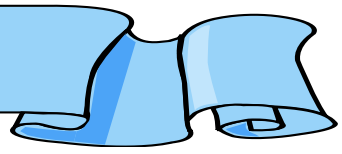


Kailie Briane King

Desmine and Kenie King would like to announce the birth of their little sister, Kailie Briane King. Kailie was born April 6, 2003 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma. Proud parents are Kenneth and Christie King of Talihina. Grandparents are Anthony and Lynnidean King of Talihina and L.C. and Doyleene Heaton of Bengal, Oklahoma. Proud great-grandmothers are Dorothy Johnico-Melton and Velma Frazier-Angel, both of Talihina.



OBITUARIES



Stephen Dale Postoak

Tech. Sgt. Stephen Dale Postoak, USAF, passed away May 9, 2003 at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. He was born July 20, 1966 in Ardmore, Oklahoma to John and Mary J. (Underwood) Postoak.

A graduate of Ardmore High School, he attended East Central University, Oklahoma Baptist University and Northeastern University. On October 27, 1987, he and Lucille "Lucy" Emarthla were married. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1988 and served 15 years. During these 15 years, he and his family were stationed all over the world, including England, Australia and Spain.

He enjoyed all sports, especially baseball and fishing. He was loved and respected by all who knew him and will be greatly missed.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Marissa, and a son, Zachary; his parents, John K. Postoak of Ardmore and Mary J. Postoak of Philadelphia, Mississippi; a brother, Ken Postoak of Philadelphia; two sisters, Denise Taylor of Ardmore and Lynette Sykes of Philadelphia. He is the grandson of Choctaw original enrollee Sam J. Postoak and great-grandson of Chickasaw original enrollee Hattie Stout.



Charles Ora D. Teague

Charles Ora D. Teague, 68, passed away June 14, 2003 in Kerrville, Texas. He was born January 5, 1935 in Austin, Texas to George and Octavia Teague. His father was an original enrollee.

He was preceded in death by both parents; a sister, Jennie Teague, and four brothers, Daniel, Bennie Lee, Cecil and Jack Teague.

Survivors include his loving wife, Betty Teague of Kerrville; three children, Charles, Michael and Trisha Teague, all of Kerrville; three brothers, David Teague and wife, Shirley, of Bandera, Texas, James Teague of Houston, Texas, and Joseph Teague and wife, Peggy, of Oak Hurst, Texas; two sisters, Betty Jalufka of Kennedy, Texas and Mary Hagan of Yoak, Texas; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He will be loved and missed by many other family members and friends.

Katherine James

Katherine James, 68, of Rufe, Oklahoma passed away July 17, 2003 at Hugo, Oklahoma. She was born November 1, 1934 in Ringold, Oklahoma, the daughter of Laymon and Marie (Holmes) Baker.

Katherine lived in the Rufe area all her life and was a member of the Hampton Chapel Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew James, Sr.; two sisters, Pearlina Myers and Rosie May Baker, and two nephews.

Survivors include four sons, Andrew James, Jr. of Wilburton, Oklahoma, Michael James of Hinton, Oklahoma, Mark James of Hugo, Oklahoma and Patrick James of Rattan, Oklahoma; two daughters, Donna Justice of Soper, Oklahoma and Jacqueline Jennings and Kelly James, both of Hugo; 22 grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and one nephew.

Joyce Nadine Williams

Joyce Nadine Williams, 68, passed away March 29, 2003 in Dallas, Texas. She was born September 15, 1934 in Hugo, Oklahoma to Albert and Elva (Chambliss) Oakes.

Joyce had worked as a nurse's aid administrator for the Hugo Manor Nursing Home for 37 years.

Survivors include her husband, David Williams, of Hugo; two sons, Steve Rouse and Paul Rouse, both of Hugo; two brothers, Doug Oakes of Arkansas and Jack Oakes of Shawnee, Oklahoma; one sister, Boodie Jo House of Soper, Oklahoma, and three grandchildren.

Virginia Mae Williams

Virginia Mae Williams, 64, of Atoka, Oklahoma passed away on Friday, July 26, 2002 at the Atoka Memorial Hospital. She was born February 2, 1938 in Bentley, Oklahoma to Mose Boyd and Harriett (Peters) Williams.

In 1957, she married Donald Lee Criner in Atoka.

She dedicated many hours to caring for others. Virginia devoted 24 years of her life helping to care for her three grandchildren. She was also a nurse's aide performing duties in numerous nursing homes, including Colonial Manor in Atoka. She was a lifelong member of the Cane Hill Methodist Church in Bentley. Virginia was exceptionally proud of her heritage and ancestry.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Sylvester John, and sister, Marie Parker.

Survivors include her daughter, Pam Sefcik of Atoka; grandchildren, Patricia (Sefcik) Sharp of Kansas City, Missouri and Robert Sefcik and Felix Sefcik, both of Atoka; great-grandchildren, Ashton Sharp, Savannah Sharp, Nicholas Sefcik, Tanner Sefcik and Dylon Sefcik; sisters, Geraldine White of Victorville, California and Mildred Williams of Atoka; aunt, Addie Lewis of Ardmore; nephews, Larry Parker and Michael Williams of Atoka, and numerous other relatives and many dear and loved friends.

She will be missed by many friends and family.

Florence Irene (Gould) Jones

Florence Irene Gould Jones, 86, of Poteau, Oklahoma passed away Monday, October 15, 2001. She was born October 28, 1914 in Poteau to A.O. and Judy Brown Gould. Mrs. Jones was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation. Her mother was an original enrollee.

Our greatly beloved sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother was a talented musician who also loved painting, growing flowers, feeding birds and especially watching bluebirds raise their young in her back yard.

A dedicated Christian, her main goal in life was for her family and acquaintances to personally accept and know her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. She was a 61-year member of the Poteau First Church of the Nazarene where she had served as church pianist and substitute organist.

Mrs. Jones and her late husband, Maurice, established and owned the Maurice Jones Insurance Agency in Poteau from 1961-1988.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Maurice, on May 10, 1992; her parents; a sister, Margaret Chitwood, and two brothers, Homer Gould and Bill Gould.

Survivors include a daughter, Connie Tucker of Poteau; grandson, Russell Gene Tucker of Poteau; granddaughter, Brenda Kay Pearce of Sallisaw; two great-grandsons, Travis Maurice Tucker and Wesley Evan Pearce; one brother, W.H. "Ace" Gould of Poteau; and three sisters, Frances Whiteaker of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Doris Drake of Ojai, California and Bette Erb of Puyallup, Washington; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and loved ones; and many beloved friends.

Margaret Dodson Frey

Margaret Dodson Frey, 73, of Hugo, Oklahoma passed away April 10, 2003. She was born November 5, 1929 in Hugo, the daughter of George Walter Dodson and Florence Lee (Oakes) Dodson.

Margaret lived in Hugo until her graduation from Hugo High School in 1947. She married George Marvin Frey, Jr. on February 23, 1947. She and her husband returned to Hugo in 1993. She was a retired secretary and a member of the First Christian Church of Hugo.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two infant sons, George M. Frey III and Mikeal Wayne Frey.

Survivors include her husband of 56 years, Marvin Frey, of Hugo; one son, Gary Neal Frey and wife, Christa, of Sugar Land, Texas; two grandsons, Mikeal Ault Frey of College Station, Texas and Jameson Neal Frey of Sugar Land; one sister, Willodyne Smith of Hugo; niece, Brenda Gray of Denison, Texas; nephew, Brian Smith of Sikeston, Missouri; and several other nieces and nephews along with many other family members and friends.

Clyde A. Pebworth

Clyde A. Pebworth, 69, of Stonewall, Oklahoma passed away March 11, 2003 at Stonewall. He was born December 28, 1933 in Coalgate, Oklahoma to Preston Grant and Vera Ethel Locke Pebworth. Mr. Pebworth was a Korean War veteran and 32nd degree mason. He married Linda Pebworth on November 9, 1974 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Survivors include his wife, Linda, of the home; three daughters, Erin Barton of Dubuque, Iowa, Marie Mulligan of Independence, Iowa and Shelly Lee of Minco, Oklahoma; four sons, Alvin Pebworth, Leslie Pebworth and Ray Pebworth, all of Coalgate, DeWayne Pebworth of Rattan, Oklahoma; three sisters, Ira Jean Pebworth of Madras, Oregon, June Loretta Greenwood of Ada, Oklahoma, and Barbara Lavern Galloway of Tyler, Texas; two brothers, Louis Grant Pebworth of Tupelo, Oklahoma and Alfred Grant Pebworth of Houston, Texas; and 13 grandchildren.

Octavia (Locke) Grimes

Octavia (Locke) Grimes, 91, passed away June 26, 2003 in Lubbock, Texas. She was born November 14, 1911 in Hugo, the daughter of Wilson and Susan (Hampton) Locke.

She married Howard Grimes on November 16, 1935. He preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by a grandson, Andy Wilson.

Mrs. Grimes was a member of the Church of Christ, the VFW Auxiliary, and a proud member of the Choctaw Nation.

Survivors include two sons, Thurman Locke, Jr. of Whiteface, Texas and Billy Jack Grimes of Lubbock; two daughters, Frankie Jo Grimes and Nancy Kay Jones, both of Lubbock; one brother, Edward Locke of Purcell; one sister, Ernestine Locke of Hugo; nine grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.



William Joseph Roth

William Joseph Roth, 81, a retired pilot with American Airlines, passed away Saturday, July 12, 2003 at a Fort Worth, Texas care center. He was born on February 25, 1922 in McAlester, Oklahoma to Francis and Ida Mae (Welsh) Roth. He was a graduate of McAlester High School and Wilburton College.

William began working for American Airlines during World War II, doing contract work for the U.S. Army Air Corps. He flew for American Airlines for nearly 40 years, retiring on the Boeing 747 as #3 pilot. He remained an aviator during his 20 years of retirement.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret (Grable) Roth; daughter, Laurie Barnes of Maryland; brother, Gene Roth of Springfield, Missouri; sister, Helen Roth Ball of McAlester; sister-in-law, Dilys Roth of Fort Worth, and nieces, Melanie Milne and Glynis Roth.

Jacqueline "Tootsie" White

Jacqueline "Tootsie" White, 69, of Lewiston passed away peacefully with her husband and children by her side on Saturday, April 26, 2003 at her Lewiston home. She was born February 26, 1934 to William Lewis and Georgia Marie Hodges in Nashoba, Oklahoma.

She graduated from Nashoba High School and attended South-eastern College in Durant, Oklahoma for two years.

Tootsie married James Rollins White on November 20, 1951 in DeQueen, Arkansas while he was on leave from the Navy. They moved to Lewiston on January 1, 1955.

Tootsie was a faithful homemaker and a loving wife and mother. With 11 children, battles were fought and won by our mother. She achieved the rank of Lt. Major Mom.

She was a member of St. Stanislaus Tri-Parish in Lewiston. She enjoyed softball, horseback riding, quilting, watching sports on television, crafts, going to the junk store, shopping on QVC, gardening and drying roses.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Georgia Marie Hodges, and a brother-in-law, Aaron Ballard.

Survivors include her husband, James White of Lewiston; six sons, Michael White and Mitchell White, both of Moscow, Christopher White of Vancouver, Washington, and Matthew White, Maurice White and Jonathan White, all of Lewiston; five daughters, Theresa Thurlow and Laura Denevan, both of Lewiston, Sara White, Melissa Garrett and Melinda White, all of Clarkston; her father, Bill Hodges of Clayton, Oklahoma; three sisters, Arilla Ballard, Billy Sue Allen and Mary Erwin, all of Oklahoma; 15 grandchildren; one great-grandchild, and Max the dachshund.

Elvis Roebuck

Elvis Roebuck, 81, of Norman, Oklahoma, passed away June 22, 2003 in Norman. He was born June 13, 1922 in Soper, Oklahoma, the son of the late Oscar and Inez Roebuck.

Mr. Roebuck was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II in New Guinea, Southern Philippines and Japan. He received the Purple Heart and the Philippines Liberation Ribbon.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Roy Roebuck of Oklahoma City and Fred Roebuck of Soper.

Survivors include his wife, Doris, of the home; a daughter, Judy West of Orlando, Florida, Sharon Roebuck of San Antonio, Texas; a special daughter, Kristanne Roebuck, of the home; four children by a previous marriage, Loretta Roebuck, Anthony Roebuck, Mary Roebuck Stahl and Marvin Roebuck, and a brother, Melvin Roebuck of Soper.

Ruth Jean Pilkinton

Ruth Jean Pilkinton, 72, passed away May 12, 2003. She was born December 11, 1930.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles G. Pilkinton, Sr.; daughter, Marilyn Richardson, and a son, Ronnie Dee Pilkinton.

Survivors include her sons, Charles G. Pilkinton, Jr. and Grady Earl Pilkinton, both of Durant, Oklahoma, David Lee Pilkinton of Garland, Texas, and Daniel Norris Pilkinton of Tampa, Florida; daughters, Betty Ruth West and Georgia Fay Huffman, both of Dallas, Texas, Charlotte Baker of Durant and Loretta Larch of Richardson, Texas; brothers, James E. Ludlow of Hartshorne, Oklahoma, Ellis E. Ludlow, Jr. of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, Willie Ludlow of Durant and Sham Ludlow of Farmers Branch, Texas; sisters, Pearlyene Carnes of Durant and Merrill Thomas of Denison, Texas.



Nicholas Griggs "Coach" Durant

Nicholas Griggs Durant, "Coach," was 55 years old, the son of the Rev. Forbis P. and Teola (Woolridge) Durant. The Rev. W.W. Witt of the Oklahoma Indian Methodist Conference baptized him. He graduated in 1966 from Atoka High School. He received his Associate of Arts Degree at Eastern Oklahoma State College in 1968, his Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Drama at Northeastern State University in 1973, and his Master of Arts in Health Physical Education and Recreation at NSU in 1976.

He began his teaching and coaching career at Albuquerque Indian School, Albuquerque, New Mexico. From there he moved to Many Farms, Arizona where he taught and coached at Many Farms High School in 1975-76. He moved across the country to Cherokee, North Carolina to Cherokee High School from 1976-1978. Next he moved closer to home when he came to Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma as instructor, coach, athletic director and division chairperson. Rogers State College in Claremore, Oklahoma welcomed Coach Durant from 1982 to 1985.

Finding his way back to Southeastern Oklahoma, Coach Durant moved to Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton from 1985 to 1991. Coach left Eastern to move to Tahlequah and assume many duties at Oaks Mission School. He was the Intern Teacher Supervisor, Entry Year Teacher Supervisor, Committee Mentor for Professional Development, Committee Chairperson for the North Central Evaluation and dormitory parent. Six years ago, he became the coach of the Lady Vikings at Carl Albert State College in Poteau, Oklahoma.

Some of Coach's personal accomplishments include 1965 State Track Champion in the mile run and State Runner-up in the 800-yard run; 1966 State Track Champion in the 880-yard run; 1967-68 College State Track Champion in the 440, 880 and mile relay for Eastern; 1967-68 National Qualifier in track for Eastern, and he was awarded the first Larry Stone Award, awarded to the Outstanding College Athlete while at Eastern.

Coach Durant brought to the world 25 years of coaching and teaching experience, 17 of working basketball camps and leagues, 15 of coaching women's basketball, 17 of football, and two of softball, track and volleyball. Listed among his many coaching accomplishments, he was recognized for bringing "at-risk" students above the 50th percentile on the ITBS in Social Studies in 1994; Conference coach of the Year in Girls Basketball in 1978; Lake O' the Cherokees All Stars recognized him as the Winning Coach in 1994; Tri-County Champions with an undefeated season and Tri-County All Star Winning Coach in 1996. He was an Oklahoma Native American All State North Team Winning Coach in 1996. He turned five losing programs into championship teams. He coached ten State Tournament appearances. He established 15 Summer Basketball Camps and coached four All-Americans and Region II runner-ups. The Talihina Indian Club recognized him as Indian of the Year in 2002-03.

Survivors include his wife, Sally, of the home; two daughters and a son-in-law, Winona and Billy Johnson of North Miami, Oklahoma and Shelly Durant of Poteau; son, Nicholas II of the home; foster son, Howard Wahnetah of Cherokee, North Carolina; sisters, Kathleen Jackson of Muskogee and Katherine Prince of Miami; brother, Bill Durant of Talihina; two grandchildren, Annie Durant and Dustin Johnson; three foster grandchildren, two nephews, four nieces, one great-nephew, and one uncle, Ret. Col. Perry B. Woolridge and wife, Maysille, and numerous relatives and loved ones and a host of beloved friends.

Viola Blevins

Viola Blevins, 77, of McAlester, Oklahoma passed away May 18, 2003 at a local nursing center. She was born February 24, 1926 in McAlester, the daughter of Adam and Winnie Katherine Pope Gibson.

She grew up and attended schools in Pittsburg County. She worked as a seamstress at both Elsings and Seampufe. Before becoming ill, she worked as a receptionist at the Indian Health Center in McAlester. She was a lifelong resident of Pittsburg County and a member of First Indian Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a son, Gary Blevins, in 1985.

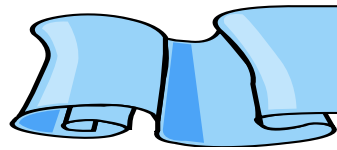
Survivors include her daughter, Kathy Falkenstein of McAlester; four sisters and a brother-in-law, Callie Choate of Watsonville, California, and Ann Smith, Ada Lusk and Clara and Bud Blevins, all of McAlester; a brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Marie Gibson of McAlester; five grandchildren, Lani Romine, Jessica Blevins, Amber O'Daniel, Walter Gary Blevins and Rickey Hill; seven great-grandchildren, Gary Romine, Katie Romine, Stacey Hill, Jess Martin Hill, Sierra Romine, Amber Hill and Stephanie Hill; a special friend, Lurena Walter of Mesa, Arizona, and several nieces and nephews.

James Edward Brown

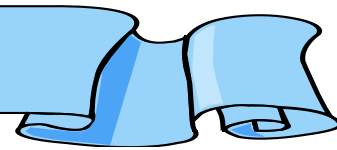
James Edward Brown, 89, passed away May 31, 2003 at his home in McAlester, Oklahoma. He was born August 12, 1913 in Wilburton, Oklahoma, the son of Able N. and Jennie (Wilcox) Brown.

He had lived most of his adult life in Fresno, California, moving back to Blanco, Oklahoma upon retirement, then to McAlester. He was a graduate of Jones Academy and graduated high school from Chilocco. He worked for the Indian Department in Muskogee, Oklahoma as a draftsman, later going to the Bureau of Reclamation in that same capacity. He married Virginia Winnie Patterson on October 5, 1935 in McAlester. He was a member of McAlester First Baptist Church and had served as a deacon in the past.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia Winnie Brown, of the home; one daughter, Winnie N. Cooke of McAlester; a son, Davis N. Brown of Santa Clarita, California; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two brothers, Paul Brown of Mena, Arkansas and Larry Brown of Red Oak, Oklahoma, and one sister, Wanda Brown.



OBITUARIES



Daniel Sexton

Daniel Sexton passed away Tuesday, July 8, 2003 at Durant, Oklahoma. He was born July 21, 1924 at Sulphur, Oklahoma to David Christopher and Bessie (Davis) Sexton.

He spent his childhood in Sulphur until school age. He attended the Goodland Indian School in Hugo, Oklahoma. While at Goodland, he met Catherine Taylor who was to be his future wife. After completing the 11th grade, he was inducted into the U.S. Army, where he completed artilleryman training. He was then sent to Europe to serve with the 8th Infantry Division. He was actively involved in several campaigns while in Normandy, France, and Rhineland Central Europe. Dan received many awards while overseas in the military, including the American Theater Ribbon, European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, Bronze Star, World War II Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

After returning to the United States, he married Catherine Taylor on August 7, 1945. Daniel was employed at various jobs until he answered the call to serve the Lord as a full-time minister. He served many churches in the United Indian Methodist Church Conference until his retirement in 2003.

He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Catherine Fixico; his parents, David and Betty Sexton, and three sisters, Edith Greenwood, Beatrice Casey and Betty Watkins.

Survivors include his wife, Catherine Sexton of the home; two sons, Michael Sexton and Daniel Terry Sexton; two daughters, Lena Maturino and Cleta Mata; eleven grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Dan was a very special husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Phillip Dean Stewart

Phillip Dean Stewart, 49, of Spiro, Oklahoma passed away June 3, 2003 in Spiro.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon; son, Frank Stewart of the home; his mother, Wanda Stewart of Spiro; and three sisters, Wythina Lovell, Marsha Rogers and Starla Clark, all of Spiro.



George A. Statham

George A. Statham, 82, of Ft. Smith, Oklahoma passed away July 6, 2003 in Ft. Smith. He was born December 2, 1920 at Spiro, Oklahoma to Frank T. and Allie Mae (Folsom) Statham.

Mr. Statham was a retired vice president of Farmland Industries and a Marine veteran of World War II.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Dora Ella Davis; one brother, Bill Statham, and his first wife, Bess James.

Survivors include his wife, Clara, of the home; two sons, Barry Statham and wife, Patty, of Wichita, Kansas and Larry Statham and wife, Sherry, of Highlands Ranch, Colorado; one sister, Virginia Jo Rhodes of Poteau, Oklahoma; four granddaughters and three great-grandchildren.

Kelley Dale Swift

Kelley Dale Swift, 54, passed away March 10, 2003 in Houston, Texas.

Survivors include his wife, Haila Swift; daughter, Amy L. Thompson of Lawrence, Kansas; son, Adam K. Swift of Wichita, Kansas; grandchildren, Rebecca, Matthew and Daniel Thompson of Lawrence; sister, Judy Mae Bourne of Elmore City, Oklahoma, and mother, Helen Virginia Swift of Davis, Oklahoma.

Randle Swink

Randle Swink, 81, of Swink, Oklahoma passed away June 23, 2003 at the VA hospital in Dallas, Texas. He was born March 19, 1922 in Swink, the son of Bert R. Swink and Ina Lou (Stroud) Swink.

Mr. Swink was a World War II Navy veteran serving with the Seabees. He attended Swink School and Ft. Towson High School. He was in construction most of life, most recently in Hawaii on the island of Maui where he was a general contractor for 20 years.

He returned to Choctaw County briefly in the 1950s and worked for the State Highway Department as supervisor for the Hugo District, served as Post Commander for the American Legion in Ft. Towson, and joined the Masonic Lodge. He was president of the Barstow, California Lions club and an officer in the Kihei Lions Club in Maui. Randle retired to Swink in 1993 with his wife, Lila, and founded the Swink Historical Preservation Association which owns and operates the District Choctaw Chief's House at Swink where his father was born. He served on the Board of Directors for Kiamichi County Travel Guide and was an original member of the EZ/EC and Champion Community Steering committees. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and can trace his Swink ancestors back to the Revolutionary War. A lifelong Democrat, he was Swink Precinct Chairman, served on the County Central Committee and this year was a county delegate to the state convention.

Survivors include his wife, Lila Swink; three sons, Burt R. Swink, Jack R. Swink and David R. Swink, all of Maui; nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; four first cousins and some 100 other relatives around the country and many friends near and far.



Betsy Jo (Brownfield) Aaron

Betsy Jo (Brownfield) Aaron, 75, of Hugo, Oklahoma passed away June 26, 2003 at her residence. She was born February 18, 1927 in Hugo, Oklahoma, the only child of Lee Nabors and Lizzie (Kaneubee) Nabors. She had lived all of her life in the Hugo area.

Mrs. Aaron was a homemaker and of the Baptist faith.

Survivors include two sons, Larry Brownfield of Valliant, Oklahoma and David Brownfield, and three grandsons.

Floyd J. Baker

Floyd J. Baker, 86, of Battiast, Oklahoma passed away July 2, 2003 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born April 15, 1917 at Battiast. He was a lifelong resident of McCurtain County.

Floyd was a retired farmer and had raised many hogs. He enjoyed hunting, gardening, and of course, spending time with his grandchildren. He was a member of Bethel Hill Methodist Church.

Mr. Baker was a U.S. Army veteran who served in World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action against the enemy in the Les Remabois Sector, France.

The citation read, "For heroic achievement in action against the enemy in the Les Remabois Sector, France, on 8 November 1944. Pfc. Baker, while on a hazardous daylight patrol, moved over open terrain 2,700 yards ahead of our lines. Upon encountering a hostile machine-gun emplacement which opened fire on it, the patrol returned the fire and withdrew in another direction. Having completed its mission, the patrol returned over the open terrain, constantly meeting with withering automatic and small arms fire and with harassing mortar fire. Pfc. Baker's daring and courage in the face of extreme danger reflect great credit on himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. He entered military service from Battiast."

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Bessie Baker; his parents, Robinson and Ennettie Noah Baker; his brothers, Anderson Winship, Jimmy Baker, Daniel Baker and Walter Baker, and a sister, Gladys Wade.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Priscilla Tonihka and Aniceto Trejo of Broken Bow, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Chicoty Shomo, Albert Shomo, Cameron Shomo and Mindy Shomo, all of Broken Bow; great-grandchildren, Eric Battiast of Bethel, Oklahoma and Hailey Black of Broken Bow; brothers, Aaron Baker of Battiast and Owen Baker of El Paso, Texas; sister, Edith Gem of Long Beach, California; step-granddaughter, Carmen Trejo of Broken Bow, and a host of other family and friends.



Ben Owens

Ben Owens, 85, of Heavener, Oklahoma passed away June 10, 2003 in Talihina, Oklahoma. He was a retired rancher and a member of Heart O The Hills Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Betty; two daughters, Diann Massey and Wynema Luman, both of Heavener; a son, Benny Owens of Heavener; a stepdaughter, Orpha James of Bossier City, Louisiana; two sisters, Imogene Welch of Heavener and Wanda Stewart of Spiro, Oklahoma; a stepsister, Ann Osborne of Blue Jacket, Oklahoma; two brothers, H.B. Hayes of Spiro and J.B. Hayes of Pocola, Oklahoma; seven grandchildren, several stepgrandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Larry William Hiberd

Larry William Hiberd, 40, passed away June 2, 2003 in Dallas Texas. A grandson of original enrollee Claude Hiberd, he was born April 13, 1963 in Chicago Illinois to Don and Willene Hiberd.

A graduate of Bryan Adams High School, he worked in the computer industry most of his life.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Willene.

Survivors include his father, Don Hiberd of Dallas; brothers, Chuck Hiberd and wife, Sharon, of Tyler, Texas and Gary Hiberd and wife, Kathy, of Burleson, Texas; a stepson, Brandon, in the U.S. Navy; and nieces and nephews, Kimberly, Chuck, Sabrina, Mike and Sara. Larry will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Tulsa penguin gets Choctaw name

The anticipation is finally over! With almost 2,000 entries sent in, the perfect name has been bestowed upon Tulsa Zoo's Ambassador penguin chick. Adrienne Thurston, Tulsa native who just graduated from University of Texas in Austin, submitted Tallulah, Choctaw for "Leaping Water". Thurston, who is part Choctaw Indian, said, "since she is one of the first of her kind born in 'Native America' I thought a native name would be appropriate."

The winner was awarded a behind-the-scenes tour during a penguin feeding, a family membership to the zoo, a sign in front of the penguin exhibit, a penguin quilt donated by the Material Girls and a framed photo with the celebrity judges and Tallulah.

With a new name and the title of Ambassador penguin, Tallulah is finally ready to make her debut. She will begin visiting with the public sometime in the near future.



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Educational Talent search

Educational Talent Search is a pre-college preparatory program funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

ATTENTION

We are pleased to inform you that the Choctaw Nation Educational Talent Search is now in its recruiting phase.

The ETS program provides **FREE** services each year to selected students in grades 6 through 12 or between the ages of 11-27, to encourage them to have high expectations, to stay in school, to study hard and to take the right courses to be admitted into college.

Support services include: counseling, academic enhancement, tutoring services, career exploration, college campus visits, assistance with financial aid, help in preparing for the ACT, and completing college admissions applications. These are a few of the services available.

If you are a parent of a student with a desire for higher education and live within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation and would like to be a part of this great opportunity, please call Linda Powers, Director, at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2711, or at the following outreach offices.

Sarah Davis	Tony Marris
Guidance Specialist	Guidance Specialist
Family Investment Center	McAlester Field Office
PO Box 207	1632 S. George Nigh
Broken Bow, OK 74728	Expressway
(cell) 580-920-6048	McAlester, OK 74501
(FIC) 580-584-6372	(cell) 580-775-0758
sdavis@choctawnation.com	tmarris@choctawnation.com

**CALL TODAY!!
DON'T WAIT ANY LONGER
TO PLAN YOUR FUTURE!**

Crowder youth group formed


"Alla Himmita," which means young children in Choctaw, is the name of the Choctaw youth group at Crowder. The group includes "youngsters" from age three to 82 and meets from 9 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday of each month. Coordinators are Dena Cantrell, Buster Garrett, Tonja Garrett, Ailene Mize and Julie Rose. Leonard Broke-shoulder is Director. During the meetings, the youth learn that they are "good for something, good at something." The "Circle of Life" is incorporated by God first, caring adults, the wisdom and expertise of local community members, grandparents and elders. The group also learns about Choctaw culture, traditions and ceremonies that can provide a framework for healthy lifestyles.

Alla Himmita appreciates the support that Chief Gregory Pyle and the Choctaw Nation have given. The group would also like to thank the 22nd Biannual 517th PRCT Reunion for inviting our group to perform. It is a great honor for you to choose our group.

Inter-Tribal

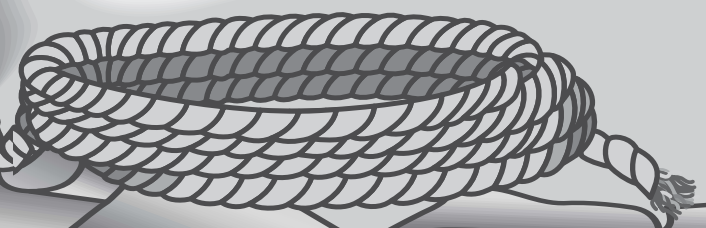
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Thompson as a traditional Native American religious leader qualified to fill a position on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee; the Prescription Drug and Medicare Improvement Act; amendments to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, and changes to the Associated Internal Revenue Code clarifying Tribal Governments as "Governments."



Choctaw Nation All-Indian Rodeo Association Region 8 Finals Winners

ALL-AROUND COWGIRL: Kasi Prather
ALL-AROUND COWBOY: Howard Edmundson
SADDLE BRONC
Top Money Earner: Phillip Whiteman, Jr., N. Cheyenne
STEER WRESTLING
Top Money Earner and Average Winner: Howard Edmundson, Creek
CALF ROPING
Top Money Earner and Average Winner: Shane Slack, Choctaw
BULL RIDING
Top Money Earner and Average Winner: Brad Fish, Creek
BARREL RACING
Top Money Earner: Sherri Kelley, Cherokee
Average Winner: Jennifer Weaver, Cherokee
BREAK-AWAY
Top Money Earner: Kasi Prather, Cherokee
Average Winner: Brenna Winship, Choctaw
TEAM ROPING HEADER
Top Money Earner: Keith Bacon, Choctaw
TEAM ROPING HEALER
Top Money Earner: Mike Bacon, Choctaw
JR. STEER
Top Money Earner and Average Winner: Lane Scott, Choctaw
JR. BARRELS
Top Money Earner and Average Winner: Micaela Carlile, Cherokee





Choctaw Ambassadors Patty Mink, Patricia Singleton, Stephanie Horn and Lena Johnson sang for the group attending the Joseph G. Moore dedication.

Dedication held at Moore gravesite

Submitted by Ron D. Moore

Haunting flute music drifted on a brisk north wind, beautiful voices rose in song in the Choctaw language and the throbbing drumbeat and Indian songs echoed among the oaks. There was the rattle of muskets firing and finally taps sounded and there was silence once again on the prairie. A scene in the 1800s in the old Indian Territory? No, the scene took place May 31, 2003, four and one-half miles southwest of Little City, Oklahoma on a grassy slope dotted with oak trees overlooking Lake Texoma. It happened in the Moore-Burney cemetery.

Joseph G. Moore was born in 1833 on the Trail of Tears during the second forced migration of Choctaw Indians from Mississippi to the Indian Territory. The Moore family came to Boggy Depot and settled at a place called Buffalo Head near there. In 1854, Joe Moore moved with his wife, Mary Rider Moore, and son to a place on the Washita River four miles from Fort Washita. He settled there, built a ferry, furnished beef and vegetables to the fort, served as sheriff of Pickens County, and served as a Captain in the 1st Choctaw Chickasaw Mounted Rifles during the war between the states.

In 1855, Joe established a cemetery at the crossing that bore his name. In 1942, the Corps of Engineers moved the Joe Moore cemetery and the burney cemetery to Aylesworth to prevent them from being under water when Lake Texoma was finished. They combined the two cemeteries and relocated them to their present site. Somewhere along the way the cemetery was abandoned, the cows broke most of the grave markers and it grew over with brush and weeds.

In 1994, an amateur historian, Robert King, was researching the Moore family and discovered the graveyard in a state of ruin. Mr. King swung into action and as a result of his energy and persistence, along with money from his own pocket the cemetery is what it is today. A beautiful serene resting place where some of Marshall County's earliest pioneers are buried.

The ceremony on May 31 was a dedication of a new grave marker for the man who started the burial ground, Joe Moore, honoring his service as a Captain in the 1st Choctaw Chickasaw Mounted Rifled during the war between the states. But it was also a family affair to rekindle interest in ancestors and history and to put our ancestors to rest once and for all. Choctaw spiritual leader Preston Scott was on hand to bless the burial ground. Preston's group also provided Choctaw songs and flute music.

Also on hand were the Choctaw Ambassadors consisting of Patty Mink, Patricia Singleton, Stephanie Horn and Lena Johnson. These young women sang three beautiful Choctaw songs in the Choctaw language and a patriotic rendition of "I'm Proud to be an American." Also on hand were Sons of Confederate Veterans from the D.H. Cooper camp out of Atoka, Oklahoma and the Lee Bourland camp out of Gainesville, Texas. In full period uniform they fired a 21-gun salute. Then taps were sounded and there was a moving silence. Soon the silence came to an end with family and friends talking, laughing, children running everywhere. I'm sure there was a smile on Joe Moore's face.

Joe's Moore's gravestone was provided by the U.S. Veterans Administration. Mark Seabeck, great-great-grandson of Joe Moore, built a beautiful entrance gate and Ron's other great-great-grandson and an artist donated a bronze sculpture of an Indian on his horse to go on top of the gate. In the coming months there will be two more missing stones put up along with a marker by the gate in appreciation of Robert King's contribution.

There were well over 100 descendants in attendance and other friends and guests and many descendants that were called but could not come. There were family there from Colorado, Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma and calls from California and Wisconsin. It is our hope that interest was generated in the young people so that never again will they walk away from their ancestors. Go find your ancestors, clean their resting place, and interest your children in continuing the tradition. I can tell you from personal experience that it will be spiritually uplifting and if you close your eyes and be very still your ancestors may speak to you and maybe they will have a smile on their face.

Winners in the Miss Choctaw Owa-Chito Pageant announced

The 31st Annual Kiamichi Owa-Chito Pageant for all Choctaw girls ages 8 to 18 was held June 20 at Beavers Bend Resort Park in Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

In the Senior Division, the winner was Courtney Baker of Hugo, the daughter of Tammy Baker. First runner-up was Tiffany Shomo of Broken Bow, the daughter of Billy and Tina Shomo.

Winners in the Junior Miss Division were Amanda Williams, daughter of John and Suzan Williams, who took top honors; first runner-up, Shavannah Short, daughter of Rodney and Johnna Short of Eagletown; second runner-up, Whitney Shomo, daughter of Billy and Tina Shomo of Broken Bow and third runner-up was Shineesta Tonihka of Wright City, the daughter of Solomon

and Lavon Tonihka.

In the Little Miss Division, winners were Morgan Steve of Durant, Oklahoma, daughter of Morris and Kerry Steve; first runner-up, Heather Fox of Idabel whose guardians are Nathaniel Holt and Mona Salinas; second runner-up, Abigail McDonald of Wright City, daughter of David and Ruby McDonald, and third runner-up, Emily Williams whose parents are John and Suzan Williams.

The winners appeared at many events throughout the festival in their traditional dress. They will appear many times throughout the coming year, representing their Choctaw heritage and culture, always keeping alive the pride they show within their tribe.

Pageant directors were Pat Sullivan and Lynda Jessie.

Choctaw tribal member nominated for Congressional Medal of Honor

The bravery of a Choctaw soldier on the front line in Vietnam saved many lives. Thirty-six years later, Tannie Floyd Roe has been nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Born in Alabama in 1941, Roe joined the U.S. Army at the age of 20. He devoted the next two decades of his life to his country, serving two tours in Vietnam and two in Germany as well as being stationed at several bases in the states.

Roe spent one year in Vietnam as a combat medic with the 11th Armored Calvary Regiment. On June 19, 1967, Spc. Roe was engaged in a battle during which he was wounded three times by mortar fragments in his arms and legs. While wounded, he continued running to his fallen comrades, pulling them one at a time to safety.



"I kept thinking that I've got wounded soldiers on the front lines," Roe recalled. "I would drag one 100 yards off the line, treat him, and go back for another. It went on for four hours."

Roe kept going, kept dragging men off the line until he passed out from loss of blood.

At the end of the battle, 750 of



the enemy had been killed, but of Roe's unit, only 44 were wounded, nine fatally.

Roe was discovered by other medics and rushed to medical attention where he underwent emergency surgery to attend his very serious wounds. Three months later, he was awarded the Bronze Star medal for heroism.

Roe also spent a tour in Vietnam with a 5-man MAC-V team, living in a village in the Mecong Delta for a year.

Among his many awards, Master Sgt. Roe has received two Bronze Stars for valor, a Purple Heart and the Legion of Merit during his time in service. He also earned his nursing degree.

A resident of Springfield, Florida, Roe and his wife, Hazel, have been married for 44 years. They have five children, Michael, Debbie, Rebecca, Mark and Loretta, and eight grandchildren.

Congresswoman Karen Thurman has submitted the recommendation for Roe's medal of honor, recognizing his heroism. A modest man, Roe feels that he was only upholding the tradition of a Choctaw warrior.

Remember when ... September 20, 1982

The 1982 reunion of the Dixon-Durant family had some relatives traveling from as far away as California.

Randle Durant and wife, Margaret.

A special presentation with Randle Durant, David Reese and honorable guest, Governor George Nigh.

Deadline nearing for FSA Disaster Loan Applications

Farmers and ranchers in the following Oklahoma counties are reminded of an upcoming loan application deadline with the Farm Service Agency: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Creek, Delaware, Haskell, Hughes, Latimer, LeFlore, Lincoln, Mayes, McCurtain, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Ottawa, Pawnee, Payne, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Rogers, Seminole, Sequoyal, Tulsa, Wagoner and Washington.

According to Roy Rankin,

Farm Loan Manager, producers in these counties have until September 1, 2003 to apply. The loan application deadline with the Secretarial Natural Disaster Determination due to physical and production losses caused by drought that occurred May 1, 2002, and continuing. As a result of the Determination, loans are available to assist farmers in recovering from physical and production losses.

Emergency loan funds may be used to purchase seed, fertilizer, fuel and repairs. "A farmer can

use the money for the most essential operating and living costs," Rankin said. To be eligible for a loan, an applicant must have suffered losses as a direct result of the disaster and be unable to obtain credit from other sources. Loans covering actual losses are at an interest rate of 3.75 percent per annum.

The amount of the loan is determined by actual certification of loss less any compensation received, repayment capacity of the borrower, and availability of security.

Farmers and ranchers who believe they can qualify may contact the County FSA Office for additional details.



daughter of Morris and Kerry Steve. Her grandparents are Willard and Sharon Polk of Bennington, Oklahoma and Jimmy and Vesta Roberts of Boswell, Oklahoma. Her great-grandparents are Franch "Red" and Nora Johnico of Talihina, Oklahoma.

Good luck in the Little Miss Pageant at Tuskahoma from all of your family and friends!.

Morgan Steve is reigning Little Miss for District 9 and Owa-Chito

Congratulations to Morgan Steve of Durant, Oklahoma. Morgan is the current 2003 Choctaw Nation District 9 Little Miss and the 2003 Owa-Chito Little Miss Choctaw Princess. The Owa-Chito Festival was held in June at the Beavers Bend Park near Broken Bow.

Morgan attends Northwest Heights Elementary. She is the

4th Annual Pow-Wow TRAIL OF TEARS

September 13, 2003

Herman Dierks Park DeQueen, Arkansas

Point system used for Dance Contest - \$6,000 in prize money
Arts & Crafts, Indian Food and more!

HEAD STAFF:

Master of Ceremonies: Orval Kirk (Kickapoo)
South Head Singer: Otter Trail (Al Santos)
Host North Drum: Thunderhorse (Robert Lincoln)
Head Man Dancer: Justin Yearby (Choctaw-Creek)
Head Lady Dancer: Sharon Harrison (Comanche)
Head Gourd Dancer: Randy Frazier (Choctaw-Potawatomi)
Arena Director: Tyrone Ketcheshawno (Choctaw-Kickapoo)
Color Guard: Choctaw Nation

SCHEDULE:

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Gourd Dance
2 p.m.-5 p.m. Grand Entry/Tiny Tots/Jr. Dance Contests
5 p.m.-6 p.m. Supper Break 6 p.m.-7 p.m. Gourd Dance
7 p.m.- ??? Inter-Tribal Dance/Contests/Specials

All Veterans Welcome

All Princesses Welcome All Singers and Dancers Welcome

— For more information, contact —

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