



BISHINIK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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December 2003 Issue

Ceremony honors veterans



A ceremony honoring all Choctaw veterans was held Veterans Day, November 11, on the Tribal Capitol grounds. A new monument was unveiled listing a 2003 casualty of the war against terrorism, Pvt. Jerod Dennis. Pictured at left, Maj. Gen. Leroy Sisco places a wreath in Jerod's honor. Below are members of Jerod's family and Choctaw Nation Sr. Princess Nicole Billy by the monument.

— More photos on Page 5



Choctaw Nation and HHS join forces to battle diabetes

Linda Penn, the Regional Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle have joined forces to promote the Diabetes Detection Initiative (DDI), a new community-based effort announced by HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson. The purpose is to identify persons with undiagnosed type 2 diabetes and refer them for follow-up blood testing and treatment if appropriate.

The Choctaw Nation is one of only ten sites across the entire United States that has been invited to participate. Other communities are Oakland, Calif.; Wichita/Sedgwick County, Kan.; Springfield/Holyoke, Mass.; Flint, Mich.; East Harlem, N.Y.; Orangeburg County, S.C.; Seattle, Wash.; Fayette/Greenbrier Counties, W.Va.; and Wind River Indian Reservation, Wyo.

Five million Americans have diabetes but do not know it. Diabetes is now the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. and cost the nation \$132 bil-

lion in 2002. Left undetected and untreated, serious problems such as heart disease and stroke, blindness, lower limb amputations and kidney failure can develop.

The Diabetes Detection Initiative encourages individuals to determine their risk for undiagnosed diabetes using a customized paper risk assessment adapted from the American Diabetes Association. A person found to be at high-risk will be given advice regarding referral to a health care site for appropriate blood testing. The strength of this program is that all levels of society – state and local health departments, community-based organizations, business sector, tribal communities and many others – have been brought together under HHS leadership to focus on a common goal: the detection of unrecognized type 2 diabetes.

For more information about the DDI initiative, go to www.ndep.nih.gov and click on the Diabetes Detection Initiative: Finding the Undiagnosed icon.

Blue Ribbon Downs sells prior to sheriff's auction

Officials have announced that Backstretch L.L.C., a private company wholly owned by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, has purchased Blue Ribbon Downs (BRD) in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. The transaction came on the eve of a sheriff's sale scheduled to pay a \$2.9 million debt to the City of Sallisaw.

"We want to be a part of improving horse racing and the gaming industry in general in Oklahoma," said Choctaw Chief Greg Pyle. "We feel our acquisition of Blue Ribbon Downs will have a positive effect on the horse racing industry in Oklahoma."

The Choctaw Nation also has a gaming operation about 25 miles from BRD at Pocola and is investing about \$15 million in expansions and renovations to that existing facility.

The new owner, Backstretch L.L.C., will be subject to the same laws and regulations by the Oklahoma Horse Racing Com-

mission, as are other tracks in Oklahoma. A new management team is already on board, headed by Frank Deal, the former General Manager of Remington Park, and Blaine Story, former President of the Oklahoma Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.

"We want to work with the City of Sallisaw, the horsemen and the racing commission," said Deal.

"We have been interested in getting more involved in this industry for several years. It is an exciting opportunity," said Assistant Chief Mike Bailey. "We think we will be good for the horsemen, Sallisaw and the industry as a whole because of the other resources available to us."

When asked about the purchase of BRD through Backstretch L.L.C., Bailey said, "This is not unusual for the Choctaw Nation. The Nation is a large tribal government involved in lots of economic development projects worldwide. When

people discover the tribe is involved, the price goes up."

A Council Bill passed by the Tribal Council several years ago gives the Chief or his designee authority to purchase property without special legislation.

BRD will be refurbished, beginning with the barns. Employees who wish to stay on board with the new owners will be put to work improving the racetrack and facilities and/or working at the tribe's other gaming sites.

Chief Greg Pyle and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey praised Joe Lucas, the president of the OHPBA; Debbie Shaw, the representative for the quarterhorsemen; Cory Johnson, the manager of Lone Star track; Gordon Hare, the president of the Horse Racing Commission, and R.D. Logan, the general manager of Remington Park, for working with the Choctaw Nation on making sure the horsemen get to complete the 2003 racing season.



New BRD Managers Frank Deal and Blaine Story, Tribal Attorney Bob Rabon, Quarterhorsemen Representative Debbie Shaw, Executive Director of Gaming Janie Dillard, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, Chief Greg Pyle, OHPBA President Joe Lucas, Councilman James Frazier and Council Speaker Kenny Bryant.

Funds approved for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant

During November's regular session, the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council approved a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant from the Rural Utilities Service in the amount of \$166,950. They agreed to provide a matching contribution of \$83,850 appropriated from Choctaw Gaming funds for the project.

Other Council Bills passed during the meeting included:

- DHHS Child Care Development Fund Modification
- a staff handbook for Choctaw Nation Head Start employees
- amendments to NAHASDA FY2000 Indian Housing Plan
- two rights-of-way/easements on tribal land, and
- appointment of general counsel for the tribe.



Groundbreaking held for Stigler Clinic

Tribal and city officials joined November 14 to break ground for the new Choctaw Nation clinic in Stigler. Located on Hwy. 9, the 5,157-square-foot facility will be the fifth Choctaw Nation satellite clinic providing primary and preventative health care services in rural areas. The facility should be completed in mid-2004.

We've moved ...

Membership department is housed in new building

Submitted by
Brenda Hampton, Director

Thanks to Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and all of the Choctaw Tribal Council Members, the Tribal Membership department has brand new offices and a vault that is F-5 tornado and bomb proof. The vault is where all vital records for Certificates of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) and Tribal Memberships are stored.

Hats are off to Corky Vails, Gary House and all of the staff who built the new building in Durant and new offices in Tushka Homma. Thank you for a job well done!!! Thanks to all who had the chore of helping us move.

The Membership Department is now located in the very back of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Headquarters in Durant, between the old north and south buildings.

Please feel free to drop in anytime to see our new offices. At this time, we are trying to organize all offices and records.

May each of you have a wonderful, safe and merry Christmas. We are looking forward to another wonderful New Year.



Looking for army buddy

Dear Editor,
I am searching for Verner Goldmith. Both of us were stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma around May 1966. We served together in the U.S. Army. We were very close and I think of him often, wondering if he is okay. I will deeply appreciate any help in finding Verner. Thank you.

Mike Mrazik
878 Saint Johns Rd.
Drums, PA 18222-1810

How did Crowder Springs get its name?

Dear Editor,
I am hoping to find an answer to how Crowder Springs, Oklahoma got its name. My grandmother, who was an original enrollee, was Betty Crowder Wright and my mother, Fannie Jane Wright, was also an original enrollee. I was wondering if Crowder Springs was named for the Crowders. It would be something nice to tell my granddaughters who are also enrolled Choctaws, if a city were named after our ancestors,
This came to my attention as I was reading my September BISHINIK and read the article about the Crowder Choctaw Center. I remembered my mother telling me that as a child her family went to Crowder Springs for picnics.
I will be grateful for any information you can give me.

Juanita McMinn
2123 Xavier Ct.
Santa Clara, CA 95051

Tribe provides wonderful opportunity

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,
There is no way for me to begin to express my gratitude to the Department of Higher Education and the entire Choctaw tribe. I am a Choctaw student attending my sophomore year at New Mexico State University with a 3.95 grade point average. I am majoring in Criminal Justice with hopes of attending law school upon graduation.
I was very concerned about paying for my education and then a wonderful letter came in the mail saying my tribe was planning on assisting me with the costs of a college education. You can only imagine what a wonderful opportunity you have given me and the many other students awarded this privilege. The smallest amount of kindness given to someone in need can mean the world to them.
My family and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your efforts in assisting those seeking higher education are greatly appreciated. I thank you and make a promise not to disappoint your decision in any way.

Jocelyn A. Garrison
Tularosa, New Mexico

Trying to find grandmother’s grave

Dear Editor,
My grandmother was Amanda Webster Jones. She was a white woman married to a Choctaw man by the name of William “Billy” Jones in Bennington, Oklahoma, in 1889. Amanda had a son by the name of Francis Marion Webster, also known as Frank. Frank married a Choctaw girl by the name of Sallie Jones and they had a son by the name of Roy Lee Webster.
I am looking for the graves of Amanda and also of Frank. If anyone could give me any information about either one of these people I would greatly appreciate it. These are the places that I have found where they resided: Bentley, Crystal, Cade and Bennington. Thank you.

Melinda Noble
P.O. Box 4603
Scottsdale, AZ 85261
e-mail: Retsina317@netscape.net

Assistance appreciated

Dear Editor,
I want to thank the Choctaw Nation for helping me to be able to see through my new glasses. I was able to get my driver’s license renewed. Thank you.

Mary Ann Frazier
Petty, Texas

Dedication ceremony touches heart

Dear Chief Pyle,
Words cannot express my gratitude to you and the Choctaw Nation for the way you, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and the Tribal Council included my sisters in the dedication ceremony for the Independent Living Community. It really touched my heart as one of *Itek Tuchina*. I now know two Choctaw words that I shall never forget!
You have honored me in so many ways and I always consider myself a “stand in” for my dear sisters who did so much more than I for the Choctaws. The plaque is beautiful. It commemorates, for me, a very special day. I shall treasure it always. With heartfelt thanks.

Vivian Jones
Sherman, Texas

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

Mike Bailey
Assistant Chief

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

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BISHINIK® 2003

2004 Reservations for Labor Day RV sites begin January 1

PAYMENTS
ALL 2004 RESERVATIONS WILL BE MADE BY MAIL.
Reservations must be post-dated January 1, 2004, or later. Reservation must be paid in full in the form of a money order or cashier’s check.
NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. All personal checks will be returned without reservations being made.
The fee for the weekend’s camping from Thursday through Monday will be \$50.

VEHICLES WITH RVs
The payment of \$50 allows one (1) RV/travel trailer and one (1) vehicle into the RV area. A \$10 fee will be charged for each additional vehicle pass requested. Due to limited space, no reservations will be made for picnic tables, tents, or boats in the RV area. No tents will be allowed to hook up to an RV outlet. Any campers caught doing this will be removed by the Tribal Police. The \$50 camping fee is for one RV only.

EARLY ARRIVALS
An additional fee will be charged for those entering early. A charge of \$10 per day will be charged for electrical hook-up per day per RV/camper.

REFUNDS
No refunds will be given after August 16, 2004. All pads not filled by 6 p.m. on Saturday, will be offered to those on a waiting list. A fee will be charged to these RV campers, yet no refund will be made to the original pad holder, as the second party should have had the opportunity to come in on Friday if they had known the pad was to remain empty.

PHONE RESERVATIONS
NO PHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED – NO EXCEPTIONS.
One reservation per application. We will do our best to respect requests for preferred RV pads, however can not guarantee you will get the one requested. Reservations will be dated and time stamped as they are received.

GENERAL PARKING
No RVs will be allowed to park in general parking.

ANIMALS
DOGS will not be allowed in the festival area with the exception of dogs owned by physically challenged individuals. Respect your neighbor and clean up after your animal.

Information helpful

Dear Chief Pyle,
I just wanted to thank you and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma staff for providing me with the Choctaw Nation information in support of Ft. Jackson’s special/ethnic observance, Native American Heritage Month, November 2003. I try to provide soldiers with information about the various cultures that make up today’s “Army of One.” In being a native of Oklahoma, I took the initiative of providing information about the Five Civilized Tribes. Again, thank you for helping us to make this special observance a great success!



SSG Carla McCuller
Ft. Jackson, South Carolina

Care package is helpful

Dear Editor,
Thank you so much for the box. Everything has been so helpful. It’s nice to know what we do doesn’t go unnoticed. Thanks again for everything. Thank God for the USA and never take anything for granted. We love you all!
U.S. Army Calvary Scout Rusty D. Beene
Baghdad, Iraq

What is history of town of Turley?

Dear Editor,
I think the town of Turley, Oklahoma, was named after a relative of mine. If anyone has any information on this it would be of help to me. Thank you.

Glenn Turley
89096 Marcola Road
Springfield, OR 97478

Thank you for Christmas card

Dear Chief Pyle,
My wife, Beverly Brock, is full-blood Choctaw. Ten years ago she had double pneumonia. They said she had pulmonary fibrosis and had six months to live. Medipass and Medicare pays for her doctor, oxygen and medicine – about \$2,500 a month.
You sent her a Christmas card last year and made her the happiest woman alive. Thanks so much. She shows it to people often and says it’s from her Chief.
Ten years ago doctors didn’t know how tough these Native Americans are. She’s still here.

Gerald Brock
Bonifay, Florida

Art major receives scholarship

Dear Choctaw Nation,
Thank you so very much for the scholarship that I received. As an art major, the money awarded to me will help not only with the school’s tuition, but also to purchase art supplies as well. I am currently attending Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, and hoping to first obtain a BA, and from there go to a graduate school to possibly earn a MFA. With your much appreciated financial aid and my studious efforts, I hope to some day be able to give back what I learn by becoming a teacher of the arts.

Tully Randal Mintey
Eureka, California

Seeking old photo

Dear Editor,
I am looking for anyone who may have an old photo of my children’s great-grandmother and great-grandfather, Jewel Ann (Sanders) Hicks and Clarence Hicks. They lived in the Boswell, Oklahoma, area and surrounding Choctaw counties most of their lives.
I would appreciate any assistance. Anyone who can help, please write. Thank you.

Gary and Melinda Hicks
P.O. Box 1255
Panama, OK 74951

2004 RV SPACE RESERVATION
No reservations will be accepted prior to January 1

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

RV self-contained camper description and length:

Number of slide outs _____

– Only one (1) reservation per application –
Please return to:
Choctaw Management Services Enterprise
ATTN: Margaret Teal
2101 W. Arkansas
Durant, OK 74701

Please return the above form with your reservation. Please include a copy of your CDIB. Be sure to include the length of your RV or camper and the number of slide outs. We need a daytime telephone number, should we need to contact you. Thank you.

SANITATION
A sign-up sheet will be provided at the RV booth for those wishing to have on-site dumping of gray and black water tanks. Payment will be made directly to the sanitation personnel.
There will be a \$10 fine for anyone caught dumping gray or black water in the RV area.
A local dumping station is provided for those who do not wish to pay for individual dumping by sanitation personnel.

TOW AWAY OF VEHICLES
Any vehicle blocking access roads/areas between RV rows will be towed at the owner’s expense.

Results of bone marrow/blood drives

Dear Chief Pyle,
It is a privilege to team up with you and the Choctaw Nation on a critical health issue of increasing the number of Native Americans on the National Bone Marrow Registry and hopefully find a bone marrow match for Michael Cusher. The three bone marrow/blood drives that Choctaw Nation has held with the Southern Oklahoma Blood Institute to date had the following results:
• Wednesday, October 1 – Choctaw Nation Headquarters, Durant 75 signed in to donate – 18 bone marrow, 48 whole blood, 5 RBCP
• Monday, October 6 – Choctaw Community Center, Idabel 77 signed in to donate – 45 bone marrow, 53 whole blood
• Tuesday, October 14 – Choctaw Housing Authority, Hugo 52 signed in to donate – 41 bone marrow, 37 whole blood, 4 RBCP
Out of the 104 bone marrow donors, 80 were Native Americans, 18 Caucasians and 16 other. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Freda Nixon, Vickie Amos, Myrtle Williston and Anita Parker-Cox for the important role they had in coordinating, organizing and promoting the drive in the area. Their hard work helped ensure successful drives. A special thanks to each of them and everyone that took the time to donate.
Thanks again for allowing OBI to be part of this lifesaving effort. Together we are saving lives!

Lou Ann Scott
Southern Oklahoma Blood Institute
Blood Program Consultant
Bryan, Choctaw and McCurtain counties

Students enjoy tour

Dear Chief Pyle,
Thank you for allowing our Jones Academy students to meet and visit with you at the Durant complex. Our top three highlights were:
1. Meeting you, Chief Pyle,
2. Seeing the Hall of Chiefs, and
3. Watching the ladies work in the mailroom!
We had a wonderful tour and we thoroughly enjoyed the time you took from your schedule to visit with us!

Sherry Picone
Jones Academy Indian Club

Researching Irish-Choctaw heritage

Dear Editor,
I am in the process of researching the Irish-Choctaw branch of my family tree. My great-grandfather, John O’Riley, born August 28, 1850, in Savannah, Georgia, died January 19, 1904, in Durant, I.T. He was the son of James O’Riley, born about 1830 in Dublin, Ireland; died before August 15, 1899, in Savannah, Georgia, and Sarah Rice. John O’Riley is supposed to have moved from the Key West, Florida, area to Durant, I.T., about 1876 to work on construction of the bridge across the Red River. While he was there he married my great-grandmother, the twice-widowed Mary Catherine (Harkins) Nail Willis. Mary Catherine, the daughter of George W. Harkins (born about 1810, French Camp, Choctaw Nation, Mississippi; died 1890, Fort Towson, I.T.) and Salina Gardner (born about 1843) was first married to Edward J. Nail, Sr., and then briefly to Ephram Willis.
George Harkins, elected Chief of the Apuckshunubbee District for four years in 1850 and again in 1854, was the son of John Harkins and Louisa LeFlore and the nephew of Greenwood LeFlore. My grandmother, Lela Josephine (O’Riley) McInerney (born September 21, 1892 in Durant, died February 21, 1986, in Memphis, Tennessee) lived almost all her life in Durant in a house built about 1910. She had the following siblings: Ada, Cora, Arlee, Lester Roy, Zula, Lula, Ora, and Zelma. I have quite a bit of information but am interested in a correspondence with anyone who has connections to or knowledge of the above individuals, their ancestors, siblings, cousins, etc., or of any allied families of the following surnames: Baird, Ballew, Bourland, Boyett, Cravatt, Crockett, Folsom, Macomber, McBride, Morgan, Nail, Pitchlynn, Reed/Reid, Shannon, Taliaferro, Taylor, Thompson or Willis.

J. Gerald Miller
126 Perkins Extended
Memphis, TN 38117-3125
e-mail: gmiller7@midsouth.it.com

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Take time during the holidays to remember our soldiers

The holiday season is precious. My family is especially grateful for the gift of a two-week span that my son-in-law was allowed to come home from Iraq to visit. Anton has now returned to his duties in war, yet his short trip home in November was a true blessing to my daughter, my wife and I, and all of our family.

A second reason this has been the best Thanksgiving ever for my family was the birth of my second grandchild, Elias Jerrick Pyle, on November 17th.

The sadness felt as my son-in-law said his goodbyes to leave for Iraq once again was tempered with empathy for families who have not seen their military loved ones since the beginning of the conflict.

Even worse, hundreds of families have lost someone in death as a result of the military action, and these families deserve our prayers and thankfulness for the sacrifice made on behalf of all who enjoy freedom.

The attendance at the November 11th Veterans Day ceremony at

Tushka Homma was tremendous. There is now a third monument permanently placed in the memorial area. Jerod Dennis, a young man who was killed in action in Afghanistan on April 25, 2003, was honored by the dedication of a six-foot granite stone bearing his name. His parents, Jane Dennis and Jerry Dennis, were joined by other members of Jerod's family as a wreath was placed at the base of the memorial by Major General Leroy Sisco.

Talking with war veterans is very sobering. Problems and discomforts they have endured make difficulties here at home shrink in comparison. I ask that everyone remember the men and women who are now serving this country. The special care packages sent to them are all greatly esteemed, but the soldiers need support, concern and prayers as well. Even a simple card mailed to someone expressing your gratitude for their service means a lot to these individuals.

Each and every one of you are appreciated. May God bless you and your family.



From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

Newest business acquisition of the tribe adds new facet to tribal enterprise

The Choctaw Nation has been extremely fortunate in the economic arena over the past few years, and revenues from these businesses have been used to provide for Choctaw people. Education, health, heritage, housing and employment are just a few of the services that Choctaws have benefited from because of successful tribal businesses.

The newest business acquisition of the tribe is the Blue Ribbon Downs racetrack at Sallisaw. This track for horse racing will add a new facet to the gaming industry that has proven profitable for the Choctaw Nation. We are looking forward to the 2004 racing season and are taking measures to upgrade the facilities at the track. The customers, em-

ployees and horsemen should all be pleased with the improvements the tribe is putting in place.

A New Year's Eve celebration will be held at Choctaw Blue Ribbon Downs, featuring a concert by Rhett Akins, Daryle Singleberry, Chad Brock and David Kersh. There will also be a Bull Challenge with 40 riders going head-to-head, then the top ten

competing for the championship.

It is very exciting to think of the growth the Choctaw Nation has experienced in both services and businesses. This growth goes hand in hand out of necessity, since we couldn't offer the services without the money earned by the businesses.

A special thank you goes out to the employees of each tribal

business – their dedication and hard work is a vital ingredient in the success of each economic development venture. Thanks also are extended from the Chief, Council and myself to each and every employee who works to provide services and care to the Choctaw people. Each employee is a valuable resource in the daily life of tribal people.

Tribe hosting bone marrow and blood drives throughout Southeast Oklahoma



Barbara Tilden donates during the drive at Talihina.

The Choctaw Nation is working with the Oklahoma Blood Institute, United Blood Services, Red Cross and the National Bone Marrow Registry to help build the number of Native Americans on the National Bone Marrow Registry. This effort is inspired by Myrtle Williston's son, Michael Cusher. Michael is a 27-year-old McCurtain County native and 1994 graduate of Broken Bow High School who was diagnosed with leukemia in February 2003. Michael is the father of three children. He needs a bone marrow transplant to survive.

Although his doctors have been searching the National Bone Marrow registry, a match has not been found, nor has one been found within his own family. Matches are most likely found within the same racial group but unfortunately, only 1.2%, or 61,000 of the 5 million individuals on the registry are of native descent.

In order to help to find a match for Michael, and to ensure that future Native American patients have a better chance at bone marrow matches, the Choctaw Nation is hosting bone marrow and blood

BONE MARROW AND BLOOD DRIVES

January 6 Crowder

January 14 Wilburton

January 20 Poteau

Wright City and Broken Bow will also be in January, but date is not yet set.

drives throughout Southeast Oklahoma. Several drives have already taken place.

If you have previously registered with the Bone Marrow Donor Program and your address has changed, we encourage you to update your information by going to the website www.marow.org or call 1-800-MARROW-2.

For more information contact Teresa Frederick, Wellness Coordinator at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, at 1-800-349-7026.



Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

May you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2004.

During this season as we think and sing about the Christmas message, "Peace on Earth," many are frustrated and unsure of the American way of life and ask, "Where can we find this Peace?"

Peace for the world will be found only in the Christ of Christmas. The prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 9:6: "... his name shall be called ... The Prince of peace." And in the same verse in Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah wrote: "... and the government shall be upon his shoulder ..."

The Bible begins with: "In the beginning ..." in Genesis 1:1 and the Gospel of John 1:1 begins: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Jesus Christ was the Word and the Word became flesh. (John 1:14).

The Lord Jesus Christ was marked from the beginning of time to reign. On the first Christmas, Jesus came as the Savior, born of Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. When He comes again, He will come as the Sovereign. Sovereign means that whatever He says or does is final. He answers to no one.

The Lord Jesus Christ came to die on the cross for our sins. He bought us back with His precious blood. He went to heaven and today He sits at the right hand of God the Father and He is coming back.

Once He came in lowliness, soon He will come in glory.

The matter of who shall rule has been the cause of all our conflicts down through the ages.

Who shall rule in heaven?

Who shall rule in earth?

Who shall rule in the hearts of men?

Two of these questions have already been answered. God is ruling in Heaven now. Jesus said in Matthew 6:9: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."

God's will is done in heaven.



This is settled. God rules in heaven. And God shall rule on the earth. He has given to us His Son the right to rule on the earth when He comes the second time. The scriptures declare in Isaiah 2:3-4: "... for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

But Peace is not due until The Prince of Peace comes. What are we doing today? We are doing right the opposite – we prepare for wars. At that time we shall beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. We will prepare for peace, because the Prince of Peace will be here and ruling with a rod of iron.

Jesus Christ is not only appointed to reign on earth but He is also appointed to reign in the hearts of men. Christ did not come to take away our joy, to work hardship upon us or to make us slaves of fear and men whose hearts are full of misery. He came that He might reign in our hearts and reign there in peace.

Jesus said, "... that in me ye might have peace." (John 16:32). And this is why He came, this is

why he wants to rule in our hearts. Not just to rule so that He might be the sovereign and make us do His will, but to rule in our hearts to give us peace, to make us joyful, happy people.

Paul wrote in Romans 5:1: "... being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 26:3: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Let us not make the mistake of trying to find peace somewhere else. We will never find peace until, by trusting in the Prince of Peace, we allow Him to reign in our hearts. This is God's remedy for all the problems of the heart. Nothing else and no one else can bring peace into the human heart.

Again the Prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 57:20-21: "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."

Peace was the promise of the angels at Christ's birth. As the Prince of Peace He came to bring men peace with God, and the daily experience of peace of heart. Only those who accept Christ as their Savior find peace with God and it is necessary to commit our life to Jesus Christ as the ruler of our lives in order to experience daily peace of heart.

When you come to Christ, the Holy Spirit will give you joy and peace in the midst of your trials and troubles. You can start now, by being willing to give up your sins and by receiving Christ in simple, childlike faith.

The joyful news is that Jesus Saves. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, ..." (1 Timothy 1:15).

May God bless you in a very special way today is my prayer. Pray for the U.S.A. and for the Native American people and their leaders.



Children eight years old and under participate in a .5k run.

Choctaw Nation holds annual Diabetes Run/Walk

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma held its annual Diabetes 5k Run/Walk on October 25. The goal of this community health awareness event is to promote physical activity to help prevent or prolong the onset of diabetes. Today, diabetes has reached epidemic proportions among Native Americans. Type 2 onset diabetes is increasingly being discovered in Native American youth. Choctaw Nation teamed up with REACH 2010 and Walk this Weigh programs to help promote physical activity in the community.

There were 78 participants in the 5k run/walk. Some traveled as far as Louisville, Texas, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The overall first place male was won by Billy Jones of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, and overall first place female went to Karen Kirkpatrick of Talihina, Oklahoma. They received a medal and \$100 WalMart gift certificate.



Billy Jones receives his award from Gary Batton.

We also had a .5k run for eight years old and under. It was a success with a total of 41 participants. Gary Batton and Sandra Dukes talked about diabetes and showed them the proper way to stretch before they began the run.

In the boys' division, first place was awarded to Cory Himes of Talihina and second place to Eli Moses of Talihina. In the girls' division, first place was Taylor Bowers of Talihina and second place was Krystal Blemmel of Talihina. The other 37 participants also received a medal for participating in the .5k run.

We would like to thank Kiamichi Technology Center, CNHCC Wellness Education, REACH 2010, Walk this Weigh, United Medical, and CNHCC Diabetes Wellness Center. We would also like to thank the Talihina Police



Kaylia Trejo

Krystall Blemmel

Department for escorting the run, Freddie Cox, District 3 LeFlore County Commissioner, Kenny Ritchie and his road crew from Jim Hamilton Correctional Center, Sam Lindamen and all the other who helped make this year's run a success.



Karen Kirkpatrick

Eating fast foods the healthy way

Fast food has become the American way of eating. While there is no doubt that fast food is cheap and satisfying, it is also loaded with fat and sugar! Whether you're driving-thru or sitting-down, our six smart tips can help you eat conveniently – and healthfully, too!

1. Say NO thanks to combo meals.

Buying a combo or “value” meal may seem like a real deal, but it’s often a nutrition disaster. The fast food chain makes more money – and you lose control of your choices. It’s easy to get what you really want. Just say “no” whenever they offer you a combo.

2. Swap super-size for smart-size.

Order a regular burger, fries and drink at Burger King® and you get 700 calories, 25 fat grams, and about 10 teaspoons of sugar. That’s a serious savings over a Whopper® with King-sized fries and drink at 1,730 calories, 46 fat grams, and 27 teaspoons of sugar.

3. Share a biggie size with friends or family.

There is a smart way to make gigantic portions work for you – share them! By splitting one large portion, you can save money while cutting calories and fat. At Wendy’s, Great Biggie® fries have 250 less calories (530 calories) than two medium fries (780 calories).

4. Save money and calories with kiddie meals.

With kiddie meals, you get reasonable portions of your favorite fast foods – and a fun toy, too! Still feel hungry after a Happy Meal® at McDonald’s? Order a yogurt parfait – or better yet, bring a piece of fresh fruit for the ride back to work or school.

5. Substitute power drinks for soft drinks.

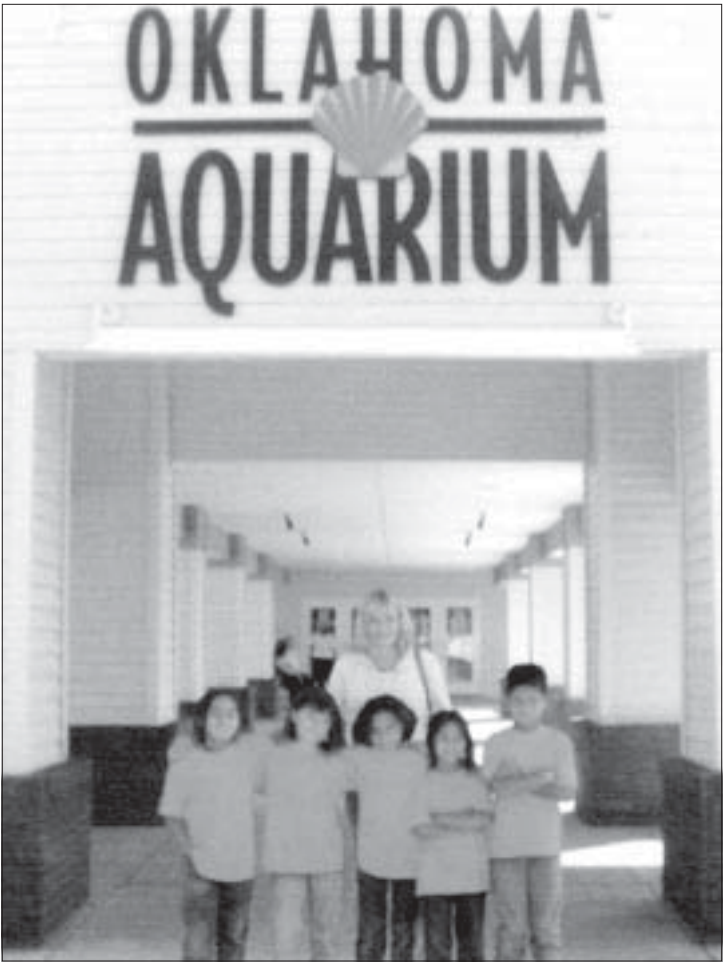
A 44-ounce soft drink has about 450 calories (with no nutritional value). Skip the liquid candy and enjoy the power of milk (with protein, calcium and vitamins), orange juice (with vitamin C and folic acid), or refreshing, calorie-free water.

6. Switch to the healthful portions.

Several national chains offer tasty, healthier options, like Quizno’s® and Subway® low-fat sandwiches on whole grain breads. Many have grilled chicken salads and sandwiches. Some local or regional restaurants specialize in healthful choices, like burritos or wraps.

Used with permission of Eat Right Montana

WIC WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN



Jones Academy students enjoy field trip to Jenks

The first and second grade class at Jones Academy went on a field trip to the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks on Friday, October 10. The students attending were Bvianna Bernal, Neosha Kauley, Nowatha Mathis, Alisha Picone and Bennie Simpson. They were accompanied by their teacher, Iva Dawkins.

While there, the group saw a variety of water animals including lobster, sea horses, eels, and regular Oklahoma catfish. At the end of the trip through the aquarium, they took a walk in a tunnel surrounded by sharks.

The children had a great time and learned a lot about different types of sharks.

Nursery News

Rowdy James Belvin

Rowdy James Belvin was born at 1:15 p.m. on September 9, 2003. Proud parents are James Belvin and Samantha Johnson and older brother is Ryan, all of Durant, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Richard Belvin of Boswell, Oklahoma, Veronica Sue Cavanah of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and Lori and James McLeroy of Detroit, Texas.



Keylan Makale Wright

Keylan Makale Wright was born June 27, 2003, at McCurtain Memorial Hospital in Idabel, Oklahoma. He weighed 9 pounds, 12.5 ounces and was 22 inches long. Proud parents are Evelyn Hallford and Michael Wright. Grandparents are Janelle Wesley of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, and his great-grandparents are Delia and Willis Wesley of Wright City, Oklahoma, and Hildred Mombi of Broken Bow and Lillie B. Wright of Idabel. Also welcoming Keylan home are his cousins, Demetria Hallford, Jordan Polk and B.J. and Carlyssa Crutchfield, all of Broken Bow.



Ayionna Mashae Battiest

Ayionna Mashae Battiest was born at 6:23 a.m. on June 27, 2003, at Talihina, Oklahoma. She weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches long. Proud parents are Rachel and Scott Battiest of Wright City, Oklahoma. Ayionna has an older sister, Mahala Danielle. Their grandparents are Milven and Virginia McCleskey, Ryman, Jr. and Darla Battiest. Great-grandparents are Ryman, Sr., and Mary Jane Battiest and Elsie and Josephine Roberts, all of Wright City.



Blaine Malachi Dale Standridge

Blaine Malachi Dale Standridge was born June 24, 2003. He weighed 8 pounds and was 20 inches long.

Proud parents are Crystal Harley and Ron Standridge. He has two sisters, Chelsey and Ronica Standridge. All are from Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

We would also like to wish Ronica a happy fourth birthday on September 20.



Abby RayAnn Mosley

Abby RayAnn Mosley was born June 6, 2003, at Carl Albert Hospital in Ada, Oklahoma. Proud parents are Robbie and April Talean (Williams) Mosley of Atoka, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Leroy and Roberta (Williams) Mitchell and Millie Mosley, all of Atoka.

We would also like to wish a happy seventh anniversary to Bobby and Sara Johnson; a happy sixth anniversary to David and Amber Sublette, and a happy 26th birthday to Kisha Maxey.



Emmanuel Wayne Williams

Nakina Williams and Nathaniel Meashintubby of McAlester would like to announce the birth of their son, Emmanuel Wayne. Emmanuel was born at 4:24 p.m. on September 13, 2003, at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma. He weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces, and was 19.25 inches long. His loving family includes his grandmothers, Ramona Davis and Nellie Meashintubby; grandpa, Harold Meashintubby, Sr., of McAlester, Oklahoma; great-grandmothers, Wylene Wadley of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, and Vessie Sam of McAlester; great-grandfather, Virgil Sam of Talihina; aunts, Marquita, Natasha Williams, Tasha Meashintubby, and uncles, Damon Williams, Michael Meneley, Harold Meashintubby, Jr., Anthony, Harold Williams and Bruce Wadley, and favorite cousins Audasia and Makayla.

Fire safety

Submitted by the
Safety Development
Department of the Choctaw
Nation of Oklahoma

- Never use indoor lights outside
- Don't overload outlets
- Only use outdoor extension cords outside
- Don't let your Christmas tree dry out
- Don't leave candles burning while out or overnight
- Don't use your stove as a heater
- Make sure the batteries are good in your smoke detector
- Never leave the kitchen unattended while cooking
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children
- Throw away any cut or damaged extension cords
- Don't wear long sleeves while you cook
- Check Christmas lights for frayed or bare wires
- Never use more than three sets of lights per extension cord
- Never leave Christmas lights on when leaving the home or going to bed

FOOD DISTRIBUTION JANUARY 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 HOLIDAY <small>New Year's Day</small>	2 Stigler 9-2 Poteau (A-L) 9-2	3
4	5 Talihina 9-12	6	7 Coalgate 9-10:30 Poteau (M-Z) 9-2 Atoka 12-2	8	9 Broken Bow 9-2	10
11	12	13 Hugo 12-2 Wright City 9-10:30	14	15 Bethel 9-10:30 Smithville 12-2	16	17
18	19 Idabel 9-12	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 CLOSED INVENTORY	29 CLOSED INVENTORY	30 CLOSED INVENTORY	31

Catfish producers eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance

Oklahoma is one of 18 states included in a petition on behalf of commercial catfish producers for Trade Adjustment Assistance according to Jim Reese, State Executive Director of the Oklahoma Farm Service Agency. Following a review of the petition, it has been approved and certified as eligible for TAA benefits by the Foreign Agricultural Service. The petition was filed on behalf of producers in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia,

Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah.

Sign-up for TAA benefits for catfish producers covered by the approved petition began November 18 and ends February 17, 2004. Individual TAA applicants shall submit the completed FSA-229 by close of business February 17, 2004, to the FSA County Office or USDA Service Center

nearest the place of residence. Acceptable production evidence, such as receipts, ledgers, income statements, landing reports, etc., shall be submitted at the time application for TAA benefits is made with FSA.

“The estimated payment rate before proration is 3 tenths of a cent per pound. This payment rate will change if prorating is necessary once all petitions have been approved and application periods have ended,” Reese said.



Management, leadership training held for Head Start, Day Care staff

Three seminars were conducted during the month of September. The seminars were planned for the Head Start and Day Care departments. A professional trainer, Mike Garvin, conducted the three seminars. A total of 95 employees working within the Choctaw Nation received leadership and management training.

The first seminar was conducted in Antlers at the Choctaw Nation Community Center. Fifty-two support staff for the two departments attended and received training in leadership.

The second seminar was held at the Choctaw Inn in Durant. Ten support staff from the Day Care Department received training in leadership.

The first and second group of support staff employees received leadership training in the following areas: self-esteem, pride in the work, courtesy to customers, how to develop personal leadership strengths, how to turn around difficult people, communication techniques and phone etiquette.

The third seminar was also held at the Choctaw Inn in

Durant. The seminar was planned for the supervisors, directors and managers of Head Start and Day Care. A total of 33 attended and received management training in leadership fundamentals that all managers encounter, communication techniques that managers should know, managing time, priorities and projects, building a highly motivated team, turning around difficult employees and eliminating problem behavior, leadership role in making change happen, and preparing for the next level of their career.



VETERANS DAY



Choctaw Color Guard posts colors.



Council Speaker Kenny Bryant, Sen. Jeff Rabon, Maj. Gen. Leroy Sisco and Chief Gregory E. Pyle stand for the flags.



Sen. Jeff Rabon and Council Speaker Kenny Bryant place a wreath in honor of Choctaw veterans killed in action.



Bennington Drama Class performs the closing song.



Veterans in the audience are recognized.



Talihina High School Band.



Antlers second grade students perform a song for visitors.

Folding of the American Flag

The 1st fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
 The 2nd fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.
 The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.
 The 4th fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for his divine guidance.
 The 5th fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."
 The 6th fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.
 The 7th fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they are found within or without the boundaries of our republic.
 The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.
 The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.
 The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.
 The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
 The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."
 After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.
 There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.
 Share this with the children you love and all others who love the symbol of "Liberty and Freedom."



Peerless Jefferson pays a special tribute to Councilman Randle Durant who was among troops invading Normandy 60 years ago. Mr. Durant is a veteran of both WWII and Korea.



Chief Pyle and Korean veteran Louie Sam.



Sam Marshall, Nat Marshall, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Jon Marshall.



John Amos and his grandfather, Vietnam veteran Bobby Amos, with Chief Pyle.



Phillip Wesley and his grandfather, Korean veteran Isaiah Wesley.



Choctaw Color Guard gives 21-gun salute.

People You Know

Hall earns Ph.D.

The family of Ronelle (Young) Hall is pleased to announce her graduation from the Ph.D. Program in Cell and Development Biology at the University of California, Davis. Ronelle's research examined the development of the peripheral nervous system. She continues as a Research Project Scientist for the University, living in Davis with her husband, Dr. Allen Hall, M.D., and son, Zachary. Ronelle is the daughter of Ronald J. and Michelle Young, Susanville, California, and is the granddaughter of Lenora Faye (Snead) Young and the late Raymond Young, Chico, California. Her great-grandfather was Thomas Kendrick Snead. Ronelle would like to thank the Choctaw people for their support during her college years and wishes to encourage all Choctaws to pursue their dreams.



Look who turned the big ten!

Happy birthday wishes go out to Sabra Hobbs who turned ten years old on December 9. She is the daughter of Lara Hobbs and Travis Mize. She is the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Madie Yoder.

Sabra is in the fourth grade at Tecumseh Grade School and is a cheerleader for the Savages.



Happy fifth birthday

Happy birthday to Christian Dean Couch. He turned five on November 11, Veterans Day. He is the son of Richard "Ross" and Lori Couch of Norman, Oklahoma. His grandparents are Dick and Sandra Couch and Joe Hyden, all of Norman, and Beverly Hyden of Oklahoma City.



All-star pitcher

Congratulations to Derek James of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Derek is an all-star pitcher for the Tahlequah Cardinals who took second in the summer league. Derek was also chosen to play for the Cherokee County National Little League All-Star Team. Way to go!

Also, happy birthday to Derek who turned ten years old on September 15. He is the son of Shannon James of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, the grandson of Letha and Calvin James of Tahlequah and great-grandson of Geneva Hooper and the late Rufus Hooper of Tahlequah and the late Lena and Joe Meashintubby of Honobia, Oklahoma. Derek has one brother, Daniel Hubbard; three stepsisters, Destiny, Deborah and Christian; two special aunts, Shawna James and Anissa Wesley; two uncles, Dominic James and Tim Daugherty, and one very special stepfather, Dustin Cloud of Bristow, Oklahoma. Derek's hobbies include baseball, basketball, football and stomp-dancing. We all wish "Chooch" a happy birthday and many more to come.



Belated birthday wishes

Belated wishes for a happy birthday go out to Tyeus Daugherty who turned five on August 5. Tyeus is the son of Shawna James and Tim Daugherty of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He is the grandson of Calvin and Letha James of Tahlequah and the great-grandson of Geneva and the late Rufus Hooper of Tahlequah and the late Lena and Joe Meashintubby of Honobia, Oklahoma. Tyeus has one sister, Nitaya; two very special aunts, Shannon James of Tahlequah and Anissa Wesley of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and two very special uncles, Dominic James of Tulsa and Dustin Cloud of Bristow, Oklahoma. We all want to wish Tyeus the very best birthday and many more to come.



Happy birthday

Best birthday wishes go out to Daniel Hubbard, Jr., who turned five on November 22. He is the son of Shannon James of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and Daniel Hubbard, Sr., of Sallisaw, Oklahoma. Daniel is the grandson of Calvin and Letha James of Tahlequah and Curt and Mona Boshey of Sallisaw. He is the great-grandson of Geneva and the late Rufus Hooper of Tahlequah and Lena and Joe Meashintubby of Honobia. Daniel has one brother, Derek; three stepsisters, Destiny, Deborah and Christian Cloud; one very special stepdad, Dustin Cloud of Bristow, Oklahoma; several special aunts, Shawna James of Tahlequah, Anissa Wesley of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Lisa, Lorraine and Carla Hubbard of Sallisaw; two special uncles, Dominic James of Tulsa and Tim Daugherty of Tahlequah, and numerous cousins. We all wish "Bom-Bom" a very special happy birthday and many more to come.



Kristianna turns nine

Kristianna Holder, the granddaughter of Clark and Peggy Holder, turned nine years old on October 10. Kristianna is in the third grade at Light-house Christian Academy in Dallas, Texas. She had a great birthday party at an amusement center and everybody had a wonderful time.



Cousins celebrate

The family of Kieran, Mahala and Rayshawn would like to wish them a big happy birthday. Kieran celebrated his third birthday on July 31. Rayshawn turned four years old on September 22 and Mahala turned two on August 17. Also, happy birthday to Emily Rodriguez on September 5. She turned three years old.



Branam honored

Misty Quinn Branam was honored on Saturday, August 16, at the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine's White Coat Ceremony.

The White Coat Ceremony emphasizes the importance of the doctor-patient relationship and focuses on the true meaning of the art and science of medicine. New medical students are presented their white coats as the final step in their orientation to medical school.

The white coat is much more than a lab coat. It is a symbolic, non-verbal communication used to express and reaffirm a fundamental belief in a system society observes. The cloak of caring, compassion and service serves as a symbol of one's ethics, character and responsibility to others.



He's a teenager!

Happy birthday to David Haines. David turned 13 years old on November 20. He is a member of the National Honor Society at Blanchard. He plays running back and half back for the Blanchard seventh grade football team. David's other activities include bowling, basketball and baseball.



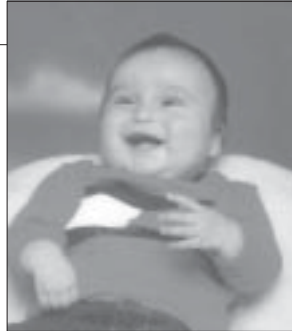
Logan turns two

Caleb and Austin would like to wish their little brother, Logan Sullivan, a happy second birthday on November 13. Logan is the son of Matt and Lori Sullivan of Durant, Oklahoma. His grandparents are the Rev. Floyd and Nancy Peters of Antlers, Oklahoma, and Dale and Lois Sullivan of Hawthorth, Oklahoma. Logan also has several aunts, uncles and cousins who would like to say happy birthday!



Look who's one

Mason Enright Bohanon celebrated his first birthday on October 12. Mason is the son of Joseph "Joe Pat" Bohanon and Joyous Bethel. Mason has two sisters, Hannah and Eva-Louise. Grandparents are Agnes Wade Bohanon and the late Julius Bohanon and Garvan Bethel and Jacquelyn Enright Bethel. Happy birthday, little man!



Terrific two

Chasity Chantal Boston turned a terrific two years old on November 16. Chasity's proud parents are Curtis and Johanna Boston of Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Happy birthday!



Happy birthday

Belated birthday wishes go out to Jakob Moore who turned two years old on August 17 from his cousin Ty'Ray PoorBuffalo. Jakob is the son of Hiyadeja and Jeff Moore. Grandparents are Billy and Marcella Jones of Broken Bow; aunt and uncle, Shanna and Carl PoorBuffalo of Ada, Oklahoma, and great-grandmother, Martha Jones of Broken Bow.

A big birthday surprise for Jakob was his daddy, who is in the Army and stationed in Korea, made it back to the States to help celebrate his birthday with him. Jakob and his mom hope his daddy will get to come home for good soon!



Dance your cares away!

Happy birthday to Jessie Battiest of Ada, Oklahoma, from Tamara and the rest of your family. Jessie turned 22 years old on October 26.

She is the daughter of Lee Battiest of Broken Bow and Pam Miller of Bethel, Oklahoma. Justin Jefferson is her younger brother and Mary Watson of Wright City is her grandmother.



Easton turns two

Happy birthday to Easton Zane Going of Ada, Oklahoma. Easton turned two on November 8. He is the son of Tyson and Synona Going of Ada and has one brother, four-year-old Tyson II. Easton's grandparents are Harold and Pat Going of Ada and Bill and Wynona Glass of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Great-grandmommy is Mary Watson of Wright City, Oklahoma.



Happy 18th birthday

Happy 18th birthday to Michael Temple, Jr., from his mother, Cherry Temple; stepfather, Marcus Vardaman, and brother, Thomas Pienkos.

Michael, you are the light of my life and I am glad you are my son. I hope all your dreams and wishes come true!



Happy birthday to Bud Raye

Charlett Ray would like to wish a very happy birthday to her son, Richard W. "Bud" Raye. Bud turned 45 on November 25.

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. Please mail to BISHINIK, P.O. Drawer 1210, Durant, OK 74702; e-mail to bishinik@choctawnation.com, or fax to 580-924-4148.

Look who's three

Kristin Faith Scott of Durant, Oklahoma, celebrated her third birthday on October 16. Kristin is the daughter of Lena Johnson and Michael Scott. Her parents would like to wish her a happy birthday!

Lena and Kristin would like to wish Michael a happy birthday. He also celebrated his birthday on October 16.



Happy second birthday Sean-David Curd!

Sean-David will celebrated turning two years old with a "Teletubbies" party at Chuckie Cheese on his birthday, November 30. Sean-David is the son of Shawn and Jennifer Curd of Stigler, Oklahoma. He is the grandson of James and Susy Adcock of Stigler and Jackie Stevens, also of Stigler, and the late David Curd. Sean-David has one big sister, Delaney, who also wishes him a very happy birthday!



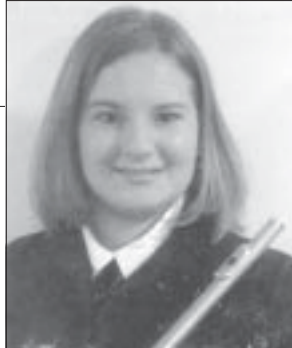
Powell-Istvan earns Doctorate of Audiology

Ramona Kellie Powell-Istvan earned her Doctorate of Audiology Degree from the A.T. Still University Arizona College of Health Sciences. Dr. Powell-Istvan is the granddaughter of the late Lena Bell (Lynn) Powell, an original enrollee, and the daughter of Robert Lynn Powell. She is employed at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Auburn University Speech and Hearing Clinic in Montgomery, Alabama.



Student strikes a chord, once again

Sara-Jane Smallwood shared the spotlight during the nation's largest youth convention, October 29 through November 1, in a musical performance that inspired an audience of more than 51,000. Sara-Jane, who is president of the Clayton FFA Chapter, was selected to play flute in the National FFA Band. This is her second year to be chosen. National FFA Band members are nominated by their state associations and were chosen from a pool of more than 250 applications.



Happy 73rd anniversary

The Rev. and Mrs. J.D. Watson of Paris, Texas, celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary on November 8. J.D. Watson and Emily Marie Oakes were married on November 8, 1930, in Hugo, Oklahoma.

They have one son, Glenn Watson and wife, Linda, of Paris, Texas; two daughters, Rosemary Nabors and husband, Don, of Paris, Texas, and Elsie Watson of Longview, Texas; five grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren who love and adore them and are so grateful to have them in their lives.

The Rev. Watson is an ordained minister with the United Pentecostal Church and has been an inspiration to many people through the years. Mrs. Watson is proud of her Choctaw heritage and has instilled that pride in their children. Their family wishes them many more wonderful years together.



Celebrating Silver Anniversary

Happy anniversary to Tommy and Delphi Whiteman who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on September 30, 2003. They are confident that their love for each other has been blessed over the years thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Tommy is a Choctaw artist who designs Indian-style family trees in leather. His great-great-grandfather was Judge Henry C. Harris and he was the nephew of Chief Peter P. Pitchlynn. Tommy is an avid researcher of Choctaw history.



Happy anniversary

Rachel and Scott Battiest have been together for six years and celebrated two years of marriage on September 16. Congratulations! They have two beautiful daughters, Mahala and Ayionna. May God bless you with many more years together.



Willis, Weiland wed

Stephanie Willis and Brad Weiland, both of Norman, Oklahoma, were married June 14 at the Alameda Church of Christ.

The bride is the daughter of William and Ramona Willis of Norman and the granddaughter of Eugene and Gloria Willis of Pittsburg, Oklahoma, and Wanda Alexander and the late Jim Alexander of Ada, Oklahoma. Stephanie is a student at the Oklahoma Health Academy and is employed with Power Jack Foundation.

The groom is the son of Gary and Rachel Weiland of Newcastle. He is employed as a manager at Albertson's.

The wedding was officiated by the Rev. Eugene Willis, the bride's grandfather. Following a wedding cruise to Jamaica, Cozumel and Grand Cayman, the couple established a home in Norman.



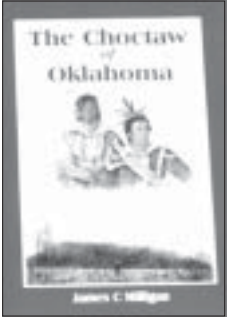
Happy birthday, Harold Williams

Happy birthday to Harold Daniel Williams on October 10. He turned 42 years young. Hope you had a good one. From your favorite niece Marquita, and the rest of the family.



Great Christmas Gifts from the Choctaw Nation Book Store

The Choctaw of Oklahoma



This 400-page book spans centuries of struggles and challenges of a people who always come back more resilient and prosperous than before their misfortune. “The Choctaw of Oklahoma” presents the cultural values, customs, and an inner will of the Choctaw to live in

spite of disturbing truths of violence and injustice.

_____	\$30.00 each “The Choctaw of Oklahoma”
_____	Subtotal
_____	Shipping price of \$6.00 for the first book and \$2.00 for each additional
_____	TOTAL PRICE

Push and Indian Time



Choctaw Nation children’s books contain entertaining stories and historical information on the Choctaw culture. “Push and Indian Time” is the last of a five part series. Each of the five books are written by Mary M. Frye, illustrated by Norma Howard, and translated by

Henry Willis. All of the stories

feature the characters of grandmother, Serena, Push, and their collie dog, Partner. Each book contains two parts: the story is written in the Choctaw language, then translated to English. The books are hardcover and the first 1,000 are collector’s editions.

_____	\$20.00 each “Push and Indian Time”
_____	Subtotal
_____	Shipping price of \$4.00 for the first book and \$2.00 for each additional
_____	TOTAL PRICE

NEW!!! First Time in Print!!! The Chahta Anumpa Vmmona, First Choctaw Words; A Learner’s Word Book



A Choctaw Definer that contains 1,500 most commonly used Choctaw words. Each word is broken down by pronunciation, use, and definition. A must have for everyone wanting to know a little or a lot of our Choctaw language.

_____	\$10.00 each “Chahta Anumpa Vmmona”
_____	Subtotal
_____	Shipping price of \$4.00 for the first book and \$2.00 for each additional
_____	TOTAL PRICE

PLEASE COMPLETE

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

To place an order please send check or money order to Choctaw Nation Book Store, P.O. Box 668, Durant, OK 74702; or call 1-888-932-9199 for credit card orders.

If paying by credit card, please complete the following information:

Name Credit Card is issued in _____

Type of Card _____
(VISA, MasterCard)

Expiration Date _____

Card Number _____

Signature _____

STANDING TALL

Ramon McDonald leaves for Ft. Hood

Ramon McDonald, the son of Lowell McDonald, Sr., was among 53 National Guardsmen from the Paris, Arkansas, unit called to active duty. They left for Ft. Hood, Texas, on November 2 and will train for six months before leaving for Iraq in February.



Blake John completes technical training

Casey Blake John, a 2003 graduate of Idabel High School, has completed boot camp and tech school from the Naval Academy in Great Lakes, Illinois. He is currently stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, and is on the USS Thorn. Blake is the son of Robin and Memory John of Idabel, Oklahoma. He has two sisters, Krystal John of Aubry, Texas, and Amberlie John of Idabel. His grandparents are Robert and Edith John of Idabel and Carl and Donna Little of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. He is the great-grandson of the late James John.



Neal great-grandsons serving with pride

Spc. Raymond A. Priess was recently promoted to his present rank while serving with the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq. He has been in the Army for two years.

PFC Kristopher Neal graduated Marine Corps boot camp on September 19. He was transferred to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and is serving with the Camp Guard while awaiting orders to school.

Raymond and Kristopher are the great-grandsons of Dess Neal of Tahina, Oklahoma.

Dess began a family tradition when he served with the Horse Calvary at Ft. Riley, Kansas. He also has two sons retired from the Marine Corps, a daughter married to a retired Marine, a daughter who served in the Air Force, six grandchildren who served – two in the Army, two in the Navy, one in the Air Force and one in the Marine Corps.



Events of long ago leave marks on language

One of the values of the Choctaw language is that it contains information about the history of the Choctaw people. Events that occurred long ago, even before Europeans arrived, have left their marks on the language. We can learn something about these events if we learn to read the markings they left. In this way we can uncover information about the history of the Choctaw people, a kind of linguistic archeology.

One of the first things we can find out is the relationship between the Choctaw language and other Native American languages. Are all Native American languages basically the same or do they fall into groups? If they fall into groups, what group does Choctaw fall into?

All Native American languages are not the same. Let’s compare Choctaw with some other languages of the Southeast – Cherokee, Natchez, Atakapa and Yuchi. We have laid out some words from each language for very common, basic concepts in the table at top right.

These other languages don’t seem to have anything in common with Choctaw as far as vocabulary goes. In fact, they do not seem to be any more like Choctaw than English is. Notice that it is not important even to know how to pronounce the words in the other languages; the “word pictures” tell the whole story.

Now let’s compare the same Choctaw words to Creek, Miccosukee, and Alabama. We do not need to include Coushatta because the Coushatta words on this list are the same as the Alabama. You will find these comparisons in the second table.

We are writing Creek in the old Creek way, which is the way Choctaw is still written. We are also using the Choctaw spelling rules for Miccosukee and Alabama. This makes the comparisons easier.

When we look at this table we see a very different picture: We see similarities between Choctaw and at least one of the other languages on every line. There are actually more similarities than first meet the eye. For example, it looks at first like the Choctaw words for FISH are different from the other languages, but notice that the difference is that “hl” (or “hlhl”) in the other languages corresponds to Choctaw “n”. Notice also that Choctaw “s” corresponds to “ch” in the other languages, as in BLACK and SNAKE. On the other hand, Choctaw “ch” also corresponds to “ch” in the other languages, as in DUCK and HOUSE. If we had a longer list we would find more examples of these sound correspondences as well as additional correspondences.

Here is the explanation for this situation: At an earlier time, some hundreds of years ago, there was a language which linguists have named Proto-Muskogean. Over time Proto-Muskogean developed different dialects, just as Choctaw has.

Comparison of various languages to Choctaw

	Choctaw	Cherokee	Natchez	Atakapa	Yuchi
BALL	towa	squatleesdi	puhsh	toksh	thotha
BLACK	lusa	agvnige	tsokokop	meel	!ispi
DUCK	fochush	kawoni	ush	shoknook	tseyay
FISH	nvni	atsadi	eNa	nti, yaw	shae
FOOT	iyyi	aqualasdeeni	aat	hikat	wedza
HOUSE	chukka	galhtsode	eet	ang	shwatsh!wane
ROAD	hina	nvnohi	uu	wongnen	sha
SNAKE	sinti	inadv	uulah	otse	tso
ONE	achvffa	sawu	wiitaaN	tanuk	hit!e
TWO	tuklo	talli	awitii	tsiik	nowe
THREE	tuchchina	tsooi	neetii	laat	nokae
FOUR	ushta	nvgi	kinawitii	himatol	taehlae
FIVE	tahlhlapi	hiisgi	ishpitii	niit	tsh!wahe
SIX	hannali	sudali	lahanah	latsiik	!ishdu
SEVEN	untuklo	galgwoogi	aNkwah	pah	latshu
EIGHT	untuchchina	tsuneela	apkatupish	himatol tsiik	bifae
NINE	chakkali	soneela	witipkatupish	wosh ishol han	t!ekyae
TEN	pokkoli	sgohi	ooko	wosh pe	hl!aepe

Muskogean languages compared

	Choctaw	Creek	Miccosukee	Alabama
BALL	towa	pokko	poki	pokko
BLACK	lusa	lvshiti	lochi	lucha
DUCK	fochush	focho	fochi	chushkvni
FISH	nvni	hlvho	hlahli	hlvho
FOOT	iyyi	illi		iyyi
HOUSE	chukka	chuko	chiki	esha
ROAD	hina	nini	hini	hini
SNAKE	sinti	chitto	chinti	chinto
ONE	achvffa	hvmkin	hlamin	chvffaka
TWO	tuklo	hokkolin	tuklan	tuklo
THREE	tuchchina	tuchchinen	tuchinan	tuchchina
FOUR	ushta	oshtin	sitakin	ushtaka
FIVE	tahlhlapi	chahkepin	chahkipan	tahlhlapi
SIX	hannali	epakin	ipakin	hannali
SEVEN	untuklo	kulvpakin	kulvpakin	untuklo
EIGHT	untuchchina	chinvpakin	tusnvpakin	untuchchina
NINE	chakkali	ushtvpakin	ushtvpakin	chakkali
TEN	pokkoli	palin	pokolin	pokkoli

As time went on these different dialects became more and more distinct until a person speaking one of them could no longer talk with a person speaking another. These dialects are what we know today as Choctaw-Chickasaw, Alabama-Coushatta, Hitchiti-Miccosukee and Creek-Semi-

nole (Mvshkoki). In other words, Proto-Muskogean is the ancestor of all these languages, and all these languages have descended from Proto-Muskogean. All these modern languages belong to the same language family, the Muskogean family. We say they are “related languages.”

That is something to know about Choctaw prehistory.

Okla ittim anumpoli cha, anumpa fvlama et pi pilah! Yakoke!

Members of the Choctaw Dictionary Committee

January Calendar

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY PROGRAM

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

Happy Holidays!

More photos of Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners will be published in the next issue of the BISHINIK.



Niki Forehand, Chief Gregory Pyle, former Councilperson Lois Burton, and Kathy Forehand.



Chief Pyle is pictured with Councilperson Delton Cox and his granddaughter, Isabelle. She is Oklahoma's official "Living Doll."



District 4 residents enjoy visiting with Chief Pyle before dinner.



Councilperson Delton Cox watches a domino game between Gene and Teddi Sockey and George and Juanita Phillips.



Patricia Caughern sets out scores of desserts including blackberry cobbler.



Darlene and Bill Free, Louise Hornbuckle and Juanita Donathan.



Executive Director of Choctaw Health Services Gary Batton, District 5 Councilperson Charlotte Jackson and Chief Gregory E. Pyle show off an architect's rendering of the new clinic being built in Stigler.



Everyone enjoys a delicious Thanksgiving luncheon at the Stigler Community Center.



Triston and Juanita Gonzalez believe "OU's #1!" Holding the youngsters is Victoria Baker Gonzalez.



Among the festive crowd at Stigler are Imogene and O.D. Terrell, Robert Brown, Ernie Sitton, Edward and Linda Mitchell, Ramona Baker and Ruby Terrell.



Singing hymns are Councilperson Charlotte Jackson, Dixon Lewis, Tribal Chaplain Bertram Bobb, Bob and Billie Maxwell and Vonetta Bursee.



Kathy Butler, Talihina Site Manager; Diana Wood, Elderly Outreach; Rebecca Smith, Housing, and District 3 Councilperson Kenny Bryant.



Anna Morgan, Nora Louise (Hunter) Carter, Ruth James and Laura Carney.



Speaker Kenny Bryant is sitting with Etta Horton and Davie Russell. Etta turned 104 years old on November 14. Happy birthday, Etta!



Preston Scott, Harry James and Carol James.



Lucille Cranford, Evelyn Stone and Phyllis Mickle.



Eugene McGee, Eddie McKinney and K.C. Long.



Frances Montgomery and J.B. Stockton.



Ernest and Helen Hoosier.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle admires baby Jackson, held by mom Christie Burwick.



Rose Etta and Marvin Hughes.



Bryan County residents enjoy fellowship and dinner in Durant.



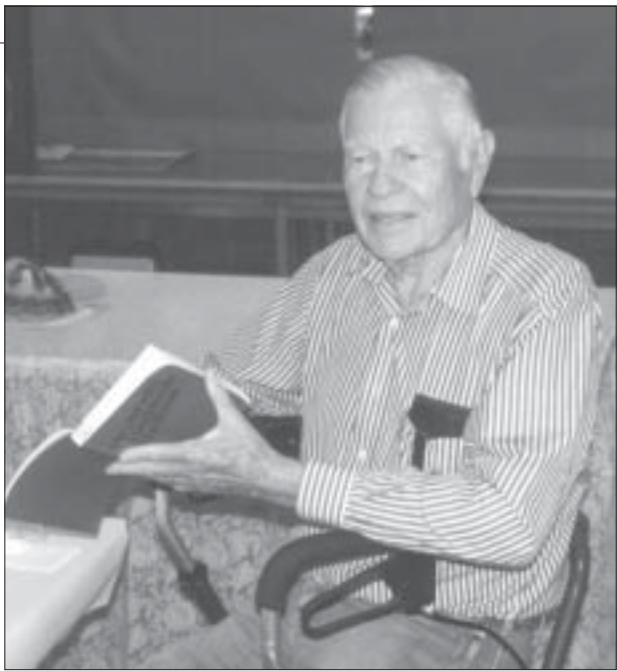
Councilman Ted Dosh and J.S. Jeffreys.



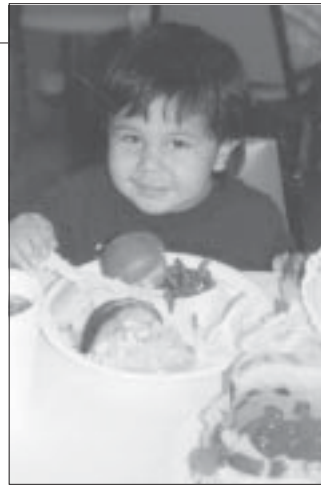
W.C. Alexander.



Creson Watson plays the piano while Milburn Power and others sing hymns before lunch at Idabel.



Councilman Hap Ward and Ida Crosby.



Kelly Loman enjoys his turkey and all the trimmings.



District 1 residents celebrate Thanksgiving.



Atoka area Choctaws enjoy their Thanksgiving luncheon.



Rita Workman and Opal Lou Benson.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Clark Bohanon and Councilman E.J. Johnson.

Children's Christmas Parties

Dec. 1	Idabel - 6:00 p.m.	Dec. 11	Burkhart - 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 1	Broken Bow - 6:00 p.m.	Dec. 12	Coalgate - 6:00 p.m.
Dec. 5	Durant - 6:00 p.m.	Dec. 12	Talihina - 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 5	Hugo at Housing Cultural Center - 7:00 p.m.	Dec. 13	Stigler - 1:00 p.m.
Dec. 6	McAlester - 1:00 p.m.	Dec. 13	Crowder - 2:00 p.m.
Dec. 6	Wilburton - 6:30 p.m.	Dec. 13	Poteau - 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 8	Bethel - 6:00 p.m.	Dec. 14	Summerfield - 2:00 p.m.
Dec. 8	Heavener - 7:00 p.m.	Dec. 15	Tushka Homma - 6:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	Smithville - 7:00 p.m.	Dec. 16	Spiro - 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 11	Atoka - 6:30 p.m.	Dec. 18	Wright City - 6:00 p.m.
		Dec. 19	Antlers - 6:00 p.m.

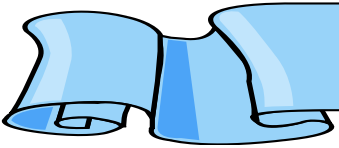
Christmas Dinners

Dec. 3	Idabel - 11:30 a.m.	Dec. 17	Stigler - 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 4	Spiro - 11:30 a.m.	Dec. 17	Coalgate - 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 10	Crowder - 11:00 a.m.	Dec. 17	Atoka - 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 10	Poteau - 11:30 a.m.	Dec. 18	Wright City - 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 14	McAlester - 1:00 p.m.	Dec. 18	Hugo Seniors and Community - 6:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	Coalgate - 2:00 p.m. at the school		

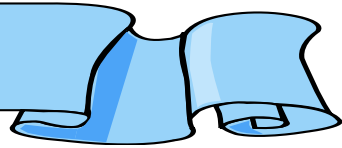
CHOCTAW NATION GED CLASSES

Pittsburg County Beginning December 1, 2003 Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. EOSC Campus, 1802 E. College Ave. McAlester, Oklahoma	McCurtain County Beginning December 2, 2003 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Choctaw Nation Family Investment Ctr Broken Bow, Oklahoma
Choctaw County Beginning December 1, 2003 Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Choctaw Nation Community Center Hugo, Oklahoma	Latimer County Beginning December 2, 2003 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Choctaw Nation Community Center Wilburton, 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.



OBITUARIES



Frank J. Sitter

Frank J. Sitter, 89, of Hartshorne, Oklahoma, passed away September 29, 2003, at McAlester Regional Health Center. He was born June 4, 1914, in Hartshorne to Joe and Anna Niegsch Sitter.

He attended Catholic school in Hartshorne through the eighth grade and then attended Hartshorne High School. He went to CCC Camp in Wyoming for 19 months. Upon returning to Hartshorne, he worked for Carletti Grocery for 3 1/2 years.

Frank knew he would be drafted into the service so he was the second person in Pittsburg County to volunteer. He was inducted into the U.S. Army on January 15, 1941, in Oklahoma City and was assigned to the 45th Division. During that time, he married Inez Huddleston on October 18, 1941, in McAlester, during a home leave period. After being stationed in Oklahoma, Texas and New York, his division left for combat duty. The group first went to Africa, then to Italy and was on active duty in the Anzio Beachhead, where he was wounded and sent to a hospital in Naples, Italy. He returned to his company and later was sent on rotation to the United States. He was reassigned to the 65th Division, Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and to active duty. From there he went to Camp Lucky Strike, France, for active duty and later to Germany and Austria. By the time the division got to Austria, the war was over. Frank returned to the states and received his discharge at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on September 27, 1945.

Soon after returning, Frank went to work at Jones Academy in Hartshorne. He first held the position as baker, then worked as a cook, later transferring to the maintenance department, retiring on September 7, 1979. He was a lifelong member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hartshorne and a member of the Plunkett-Hancock American Legion Post #180. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, playing the piano, accordion and mandolin.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Anna Sitter; a daughter, Laura Louise Sitter Wilson; a son, Frankie Joe Sitter; five brothers, Jody, Charlie, Johnny, Tony and Ted Sitter, and four sisters, Annie Ranallo, Kate Machusis, Veronica Gilliam and Josie Bernasky.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Inez Sitter; a daughter, Barbara Goddard, and her husband, David, and children, Charlsie, Melinda, Allison and Andrew, all of Houston, Texas; grandsons, Kyle Wilson of Jefferson, Georgia, and Cole Wilson of McAlester; great-granddaughter, Laura Ashley Wilson of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and sister-in-law, Margaret Sitter of Hartshorne, Oklahoma.

Gladys McLemore

Gladys McLemore, 57, of Bonham, Texas, passed away October 14, 2003, at the San Luis Valley Medical Center in Alamosa, Colorado. She was born October 10, 1946, in Soper, Oklahoma, the daughter of Simeon Wood and Lindzey (Sanders) Wood.

She married Archie Timothy McLemore on March 10, 1979 in Durant, Oklahoma. She was a member of the Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church in Bennington, Oklahoma. She was a nurse.

She is survived by her husband, Archie Timothy McLemore of Bonham; daughters, Annette McLemore and Jennifer McLemore, both of Bonham; brother, Jimmy Ray Wood of Ringold, Oklahoma; sisters, Mary Folz of Balch Springs, Texas, and Patricia Blagg of Nevada, Texas, and several nieces and nephews.

Peggy Sue Enos

Peggy Sue Enos passed away October 21, 2003, at Marian Medical Center in Santa Maria, California. She was born November 9, 1944, in Mesa, Arizona, to Monroe and Pearl Campbell. Her family moved to Santa Maria in 1945.

Peggy was the granddaughter of original enrollee Ann Elizabeth (Low) Motly of McAlester, Oklahoma. She was proud of her Choctaw and Cherokee heritage.

Survivors include her husband, Richard E. Enos of Santa Maria; daughters, Carolyn Jean Enos of Monterey, California, and Tracy R. Smith and husband, Larry, of Santa Maria; a son, Ron E. Enos and wife, Deanne, of Santa Maria; her mother, Pearl Campbell; sisters, Sandy J. Miller, Vera M. Hall and Louise Maddison, all of Santa Maria, and Nyoka J. Galindo of Lompoc, California; brothers, Ricky J. Campbell of New Cuyama, California, and Roger D. Campbell of Harrison, Idaho; five grandchildren, Richard Carlson, Ashley Barbrow, Jennifer Malm, Danielle Molinella and Ryan Enos, and two great-grandchildren, Sylvia Carlson and Daniel Barbrow.

James Earl Miller

James Earl Miller, 82, of North Platte, Nebraska, passed away October 19, 2003, in North Platte. He was born September 23, 1921, in Antlers, Oklahoma, to original enrollee Samuel Gordon Miller and Grace Cornelia Barnhill Miller.

James' grandfather was Dr. James H. Miller, a pioneer physician, rancher, banker and merchant. Dr. Miller came to Choctaw Nation in 1875 and settled near Old Goodland, Indian Territory. He married Ella J. Roebuck, daughter of Col. William Roebuck, a prominent Choctaw politician. Dr. Miller served the Nation as Tribal Collector, Treaty Rights Member and Washington, D.C., representative. James was proud of his Choctaw heritage and being a member of the Choctaw Nation.

James had lived in North Platte since 1990 with prior residence in Cheyenne for 42 years. He was a conductor for the Union Pacific Railroad for 35 years. He served in the Army as a staff sergeant.

He was a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, American Legion and VFW in North Platte. He enjoyed fishing, tying flies and hunting.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Sandra Sue Miller; his parents, Samuel and Grace Miller, and a brother, Jack R. Miller.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Sue Miller of North Platte, whom he married May 31, 1947; a son, James Randy Miller of Berthoud, Colorado; a daughter, Dawn R. Miller-Friel of Moses Lake, Washington; a brother, Joe Miller of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; a sister, Theda B. Babcock of Arkansas City, Kansas; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Jamie Lee Ward

Jamie Lee Ward, 24, of McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away October 26, 2003, in McAlester. He was born November 10, 1978, in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, to Joe Bob and Betty (Johnico) Ward.

Jamie married Amanda James on June 30, 2001, in McAlester. He worked as a painter for the Choctaw Manufacturing and Development Corporation. He was a member of the First Indian Baptist Church of McAlester.

Survivors include his wife, Amanda, of the home; daughter, Madison Ward of the home; parents, Joe and Betty Ward of Durant, Oklahoma; grandparents, Dewey and Alma Johnico of Talihina, Oklahoma; brothers, Kristoffer Ward, Jordan Ward and Kody Ward, all of Talihina; sisters, Leigh Ward of Durant and Candice Ward and Priscilla Ward, both of Talihina; aunts, Michelle Johnico, Mary Lou Thierry and Mary Harris; uncles, Sammy Polk and wife, Pam, and Roy Ward; cousin, Monique Smith, and other family and friends.

AnnaBelle McDonald

AnnaBelle McDonald passed away November 3, 2003, in Bakersfield, California, just five days before her 100th birthday. She was born AnnaBelle Quinton on November 8, 1903, just a few miles from Featherston, Oklahoma.

She had very fond memories of growing up in the Featherston area and spoke often of her life as a child there. AnnaBelle's mind was very sharp until the end. Only her body had failed her.

Her family moved to California in 1924 and in 1925 she married Leroy McDonald whom she still referred to as a very good man. She and Leroy raised five children – three boys, Hester, Delvin and Marvin, and two girls, Katie Vaughn and Ramona Kirkpatrick. Both Hester and Katie preceded her in death as did her husband, Leroy. From these five children came eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. She was very proud of each and every one. They all held a special place in her heart.

In May 2003, Chief Pyle and other tribal members visited Bakersfield for the yearly gathering. AnnaBelle was eager to attend and enjoyed meeting the Chief, Assistant Chief and many other staff members. She announced to her family after the gathering that she felt like a princess. They had all treated her so well. She has kept Chief Pyle's picture on the wall since he became Chief. Annabelle was an original enrollee.

She set her goals high and lived her life with very high standards. With much pride and determination she was able to live in her home until shortly before her death. This was very important to her. She instilled a pride in all of her offspring to join the Choctaw Nation and continue to be proud of their heritage.

She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Melvaleah (Williams) Daniel

Melvaleah (Williams) Daniel, 94, formerly of Krebs, Oklahoma, passed away October 27, 2003, at Grace Living Center in Jenks, Oklahoma. She was born June 30, 1909, in Crowder, Oklahoma, to Thomas and Mary Elizabeth (Perry) Williams.

She grew up and attended schools in Crowder and also the Haskell Indian School in Kansas. She received her teaching degree from Southeastern Oklahoma College in Durant and later received her master's degree in Colorado. She taught in one-room schools in Pittsburg County and in Canadian, Oklahoma. She also taught in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and Wichita, Kansas. She retired from teaching in Pacific Grove, California, after 30 years. After her retirement she returned to McAlester, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four sisters; two brothers; two husbands, and a son, Don Dykes.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Ataloe and John McMillan of Glenpool; a granddaughter and spouse, Ann and Terry Voss of Sapulpa, Oklahoma; a grandson, Bruce McMillan of Glenpool; two great-granddaughters, Janis McMillan and Felicia McMillan, and two great-grandsons, Levi Voss and John Wayne McMillan.

Irene Derrick Madruga

Irene Derrick Madruga passed away October 27, 2003, at her home in Hayward, California. She was born March 16, 1916, at Hilltop Community east of Calvin, Oklahoma. Her parents, Gordon Derrick and Nelia Jane Low Derrick, an original enrollee, preceded her in death as did all her brothers and sisters.

Her husband of 52 years, Al Madruga, also preceded her in death March 3, 2003.

Survivors include a daughter, Susan Kay Silva; two granddaughters, Jaime Irene Madruga and Paula-Sue Silva, and a great-granddaughter, Isabelle Irene Madruga, all of Hayward; several nieces and nephews; an uncle, James Tow; a sister-in-law, Pearl Derrick, and many cousins.



Esther Lene Cole

Esther Lene Cole, 58, a longtime resident of Lehigh, Oklahoma, passed away October 12, 2003, in Carl Albert Hospital, Ada, Oklahoma. She was born April 20, 1945, in Coal County, Oklahoma, to James Coleman and Betty Lou Hall Cole.

Esther attended school at Mowdy, Wardville, and Limestone Gap. She was a homemaker and a lifelong member of the Lone Star Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Oscar Antonio Alborado; three brothers, Preston Cole, Henry Cole and Sylvester Cole; and one sister, Mary Cole Woods.

Survivors include seven children, Vonda Cole of Idabel, Oklahoma, Brenda Payne and husband, Bobby, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Angie Hernandez and husband, Alex, of Broken Bow, Lupe Garcia and husband, Melesio, of Broken Bow, Sonny Alborado and husband, Jose, of Dekalb, Texas, and Seico Alborado and wife, Amanda, of Farris, Oklahoma; two sisters, Doris Courson and Marsha Burgess, both of Coalgate, Oklahoma; five brothers, Larry Cole and Abner Cole, both of Coalgate, Raymond Cole of Ada, Oklahoma, Mike Cole of Arlington, Texas, and Kenneth Cole of Kansas City, Missouri; 22 grandchildren, one aunt, Maggie Anderson of Coalgate, along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and many dear and loved friends.

James Ellis Owens

James Ellis Owens, 56, of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, passed away October 23, 2003, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was born January 2, 1947, in Heavener, Oklahoma, the son of Johnie and Thelma (Pickle) Owens.

Mr. Owens was a Protestant, a 1965 graduate of Spiro High School and a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was employed in management at Federal Coach in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and Holley Carburetor in Sallisaw. He and Ruby Idell (Taylor) Owens were married July 17, 1999, in Ft. Smith.

He is survived by his wife, Idell Owens, of the home; two daughters, Jeanne Francis Owens of Oklahoma City and Jackie Kaye Owens of Ft. Smith; one stepdaughter, Mitzie Adams of Benton, Louisiana; one son, Johnie Louis Owens of Seminole, Florida; one stepson, Joe Binz of Ft. Smith; eight grandchildren; three sisters, Thelma Hickman of Keota, Oklahoma, Nancy Myrick of Alma, Arkansas, and Darlene Smith of Spiro, Oklahoma, and two brothers, Junior Owens of Spiro and Jerry Owens of Little Rock.



Clifford Earl "Pete" Gossett

Clifford Earl "Pete" Gossett, 79, a lifelong Atoka County resident, passed away October 16, 2003, at Atoka Memorial Hospital. He was born May 20, 1924, at Caney, Oklahoma, the son of Martin Earl Gossett and Cleo (Zion) Gossett.

He attended school at Buckholt and Caney. He worked many years as a masonry worker and later owned and operated Gossett's Fruit Stand until his retirement.

Mr. Gossett was a longtime member of Voca Baptist Church and was also a member of the Caddo Masonic Lodge. He was a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner. He was married to Alma Ritchie on July 26, 1947, at Sherman, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Martin Earl and Cleo Gossett; son, Robert Earl Gossett; son-in-law, Ronnie Burditt; brother, Joe Mack Gossett, and brother-in-law, Eulis Cole.

Survivors include his wife, Alma Loucile Gossett of the home near Caney; three daughters, Virginia Ann Burditt, Carolyn Jean Jackson and husband, Jackie, and Elizabeth Sue Ishmael and husband, Douglas, all of Caney; six grandchildren, Charles Earl Keener and wife, Stephanie, and Christie Lynn Renegar and husband, Nason, all of Durant, and Sandra Kay Kennedy, Mary Lee Jackson, Colt Wayne Ishmael and Mason Garrett Ishmael, all of Caney; six great-grandchildren, Felicia Raeann Renegar, Destiny Raelynn Renegar and Zachary Kade Keener, all of Durant, and Cambria Shaylee Kennedy, Draven Kayzee Kennedy and Noah Kade Kennedy, all of Stringtown; one sister, Joyce Cole of Oklahoma City; three nephews, Larry Cole, Bobby Cole and Marty Gossett, and numerous other relatives and many very dear and loved friends.



Agnes Harkins Hobgood

Agnes Harkins Hobgood, 84, of Amarillo, Texas, passed away Friday, October 3, 2003.

She married Paul Hobgood on February 18, 1945, in Boise City, Oklahoma. She was an executive secretary to Anne Wagner of Wagner Land and Cattle Co. of Amarillo.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years in July 2002.

Survivors include a son, Mark Hobgood and wife, Jami, of Hallsville; two daughters, Koma Jo Murray and husband, Rick, of Lafayette, Colorado, and Melody Gillis and husband, Jerry, of Bushland; brother, Bob Harkins of Oregon; nine grandchildren, Brandon Murray and wife, Aubree, of Lafayette, Zachary Murray and wife, Jo, of Grand Junction, Colorado, Chelsea Murray, Courtney Murray and Logan Murray, all of Lafayette, Calli Gillis of Bushland, and Jacob Sherwood, Dylan Sherwood and Megan Hobgood, all of Hallsville, Texas; and one great-grandchild, Saber Murray of Lafayette.



Gladys Marie (Samuel) Ludlow

Gladys Marie (Samuel) Ludlow, 58, of Honobia, Oklahoma, passed away October 27, 2003, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma. She was born on March 6, 1945, to the late Gardner and Marie (Amos) Samuel.

Gladys was a very devoted mother and grandmother.

Survivors include four sons and daughters-in-law, Darryl and Collette Samuels of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, Ted and Denise Ludlow of Wickes, Arkansas, Harlan and Geraldine Ludlow of Talihina, Oklahoma, Crandall and Teresa Ludlow of Honobia; seven grandsons, Kelsey, Trenton, Tyler, Brenden, Kasey, Jeremy and Tristan; seven granddaughter, Ashley, Rolanda, Shyla, Erica, Emily, Ashton and Cera, and one great-grandson, Matthew.

Bertha Barnes

Bertha Barnes, 88, a longtime resident of Coalgate, Oklahoma, passed away October 6, 2003, at Hurley Manor in Coalgate. She was born April 26, 1915, in Coalgate to James and Julia (Burleson) Cunningham.

She graduated Coalgate Schools in 1932, married Harry A. Barnes on June 23, 1933, in Ashland and was a homemaker and retired rancher. Mrs. Barnes was also a member of the Coalgate First Baptist Church and active in the Senior Citizens Center in Coalgate.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents and one brother, J.B. Cunningham.

Survivors include three daughters, Cleo Sallee and husband, Charles, of Ashland, Sybel Cometti and husband, Charles, of Coalgate, and Barbara Rind of Hobbs, New Mexico; two sons, Leon Barnes and wife, Linda, of Coalgate; one brother, Loyd Cunningham of Pasadena, Texas; 18 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren; along with a host of nieces and nephews and many dear and loved friends.

