



BISHINIK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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February 2003 Issue

Jones Academy Health Fair

A Health Fair will be held in the gymnasium at Jones Academy from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, March 12. The Health Fair is open to the public with representatives from the following clinics: Dental, Ears, Blood Pressure Check, Fat Content, Drug & Alcohol, Finger Printing, Podiatry, Diabetic Clinic, Speech Pathologist, Physical Therapy, and Registered Dietician.

For more information, please call 1-888-767-2518.

OK Choctaw Center plans March events

Several events have been scheduled at the OK Choctaw Center, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd. in Oklahoma City, on Saturday, March 8.

Staff members from the Choctaw Nation Membership Department will be on hand 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to issue photo IDs; Oklahoma Indian Legal Services will be at the center, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., to professionally prepare federal and state tax returns and e-file them, all free of charge; and the center will be having its monthly Indian Taco Sale, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

On Monday, March 10, the center's monthly meeting is scheduled with the potluck dinner at 6 p.m. and the meeting following at 7 p.m.

Please contact Pamela Reed at 405-688-4191 for more information.

Homebuyer Education Workshop

Do you dream of owning your own home?

The Choctaw Nation Home Finance Department offers a variety of programs to help you become a homeowner.

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

These services are available to any Native American at all income levels. Issues covered in the workshops include:

- Budgeting
- Insurance
- Realtors
- Lending Process
- Credit Issues

Classes will be held in the following locations:

DURANT
Tuesday, February 11

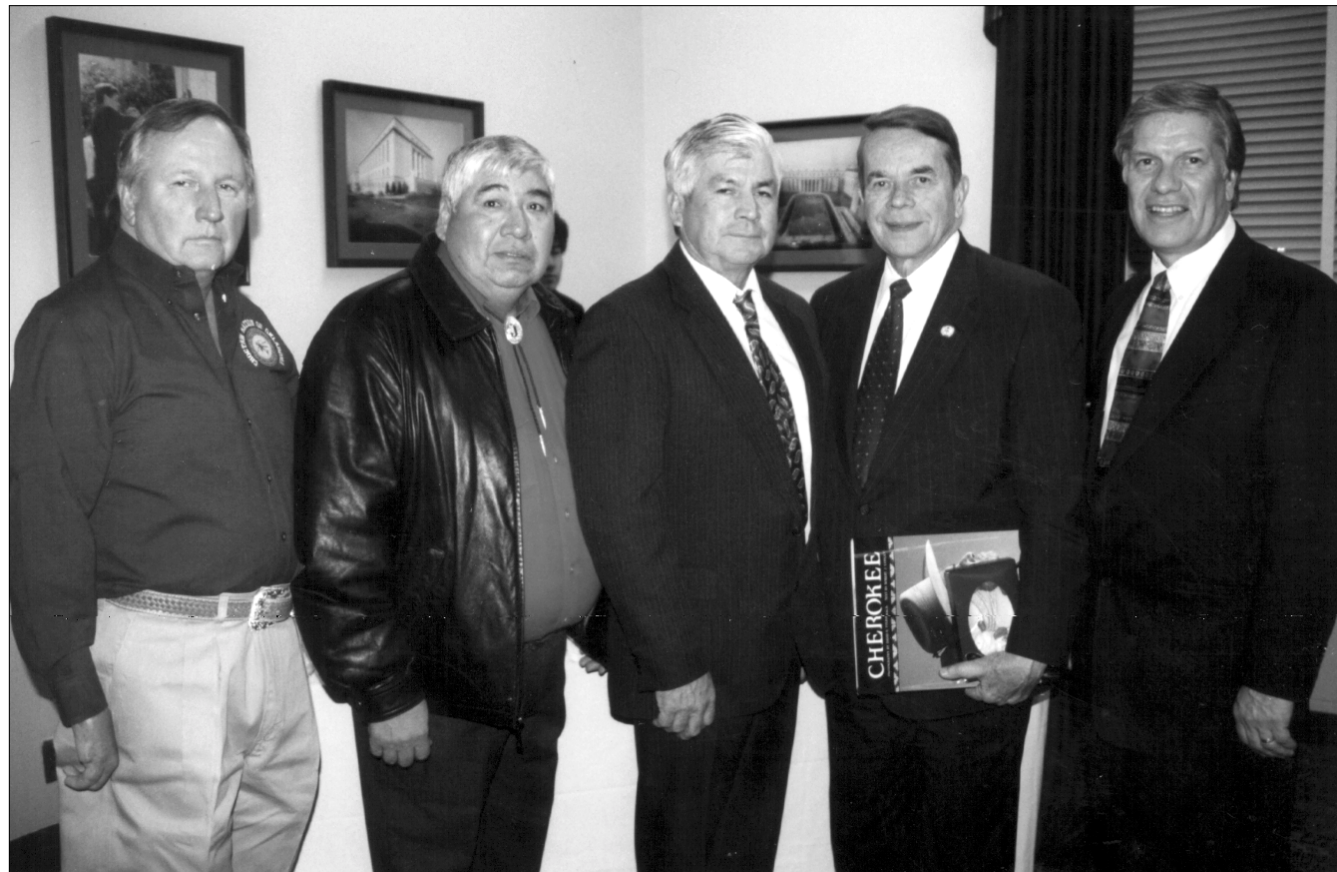
POTEAU
Tuesday, February 18

DALLAS
Tuesday, February 25

To register for a class or to get more information, please call Becky Chandler at the Choctaw Housing Authority, 1-800-235-3087, ext. 294.

"Footsteps of a Durant Choctaw"

"Footsteps of a Durant Choctaw," a newly released book by Randle Durant, is now available for sale. The hardcover book, a genealogy and general Choctaw history, includes lots of photographs. To order, please send your check or money order for \$20.00 to Randle Durant, Route 2 Box 1000, Talihina, OK 74571.



Tribal representatives meet with Senate, House members

Choctaw Tribal Council members and Chief Gregory E. Pyle recently went to Washington, D.C. to participate in legislative briefings to members of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives. Pictured are Ted Dosh, James Frazier, Kenny Bryant, Congressman Dale Kildee and Chief Gregory E. Pyle. The Cherokee, Chickasaw, Seminole and Muscogee (Creek) tribes also presented information to the members and staff of the 108th Congress. Subjects of concern brought forth by the tribal leaders included Self-governance, Indian Health Care, Economic Stimulus in Indian Country, the Five Nations Citizen Land Reform Act and the Transportation program.

Health Services awarded accreditation from Joint Commission

Choctaw Nation Health Services has achieved accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations as a result of its demonstrated compliance with the Joint Commission's nationally recognized health care standards.

Founded in 1951, the Joint Commission is dedicated to continuously improving the safety and quality of the nation's health care through voluntary accreditation. The Joint Commission's on-site survey of Choctaw Nation Health Services occurred in December.

"Above all, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organizationwide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care," says Russell P. Massaro, M.D., executive vice president, Accreditation Operations, Joint Commission. "The community should be proud that Choctaw Nation Health Services is focusing on the most challenging goal – to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels."

Only 22 percent of hospitals surveyed by Joint Com-

mission receive a score of 94 or better. The Choctaw Nation Health Services is one of them.

Bob Blum, Choctaw Nation Health Service's Administrator, spoke of his pride in a staff whose members ask what needs to be done to be accredited by the Joint Commission. "In addition, they appreciate the educational aspect of the survey and the opportunity to interact with the team of surveyors." He called the accreditation, "proof of an organizationwide commitment to provide quality care on an ongoing basis."



Stringtown Travel Plaza opens for business

Choctaw Nation opened its eleventh travel plaza on January 21. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the Stringtown Travel Plaza, located three miles north of Stringtown, Oklahoma on Hwy. 69/75. Its doors opened quickly on the heels of the new Choctaw Travel Mart in Atoka which has been in operation since December. The two businesses in Atoka County will provide 45 to 50 new jobs for area residents.

Hundreds stopped in for the opening and took advantage of gasoline prices at \$1.029 per gallon from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. As with the other Choctaw Travel Plazas, a wide variety of items stock the shelves and wonderful food items are available in the grill area.

Councilman E.J. Johnson, in photo at right, handed the keys to Chris McClain, the winner of the new red four-wheeler given away as part of the celebration. Also pictured is Councilperson James Frazier of Coalgate.

The Choctaw Nation's twelfth travel plaza is now open in Poteau. The Poteau Travel Plaza is estimated to provide 30 jobs to the area.



Grant to assist housing residents

The Resident Opportunity Service Services (ROSS) Grant is available to Choctaw Housing Residents, aimed at assisting residents in becoming self-sufficient.

The ROSS grant can assist housing residents in their education, employment, child care and transportation as well as assisting 20 residents with becoming self-employed.

Education assistance can be granted for tuition, books, room and board, clothing allowance or transportation to classes. Employment assistance can be granted for those starting a new job or who have been in their job for less than 60 days with living support, clothing allowance, tools and equipment. Child care assistance can be granted with temporary child care to attend school or for employment. Transportation assistance is available for eligible residents for registration insurance, repair or mileage to attend school or stay employed.

The Small Business Program will target individuals who may just be getting started in a small business, and individuals who may have skills or licensing that could be developed into a small business and need help getting started. Working with the OIO Women's Business Center and Little Dixie Community Action, Inc., we can assist you with making that first step with business

(See GRANT on Page 5)

Council funds fencing for former Chiefs' grave sites

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council allocated funds on January 11, 2003 to build needed fencing around former Choctaw Chiefs' grave sites. Ten sites have currently been identified for these initial improvements.

Funds were also appropriated for expansion of McAlester Gaming Center and renovation of the Stringtown Gaming Center.

The Atoka Community Center will also be expanded, thanks to approval of funding from the Council members.

Permission was given to submit a grant proposal to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for development and implementation of a National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection program within the Choctaw Nation Health Services.

Tribal Council members approved funding the 12th Annual Swine/Beef Show sponsored by the Choctaw Nation.

Sublease of properties for the Independent Living Community sites for elderly living in Durant, Talihina and Hartshorne were approved.

Budgets for the Native American Caregiver Support Program and DHHS Administration on Aging were approved.

More information and photos of the Chiefs' grave sites will be included in the March edition of the BISHINIK.

WIC department tells us "a healthy weight, a healthy you"

Did you know that being overweight or underweight can increase your risk of health problems?

Research shows excess weight is a serious health problem for many Americans, increasing their risk of developing serious illnesses such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, and high blood pressure. Being underweight is linked with heart problems, lowered resistance to infection, chronic fatigue, anemia, depression and other illnesses.

The good news: healthful eating and regular physical activity can help to prevent these illnesses. Managing your weight plays a vital role in achieving and maintain-

ing your realistic healthy weight through proper food choices and regular physical activity. By making changes in your habits – including eating and physical activity – you can help achieve long-term health and lifelong weight management.

But what is a healthy weight?

Your healthy weight is likely to be quite different from anyone else's. A variety of factors influence your weight, including your genes (which play a role in determining your body size and shape), physical activity, age, dieting history, and the foods you eat. Whether your weight is healthy depends on where your body fat is located,

how much of your weight is fat, and whether you have weight-related health problems, such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

Use the following guidelines to judge if your weight is healthy:

– **Body shape:** Are you apple-shaped with more fat on your upper body (around your abdomen), or pear-shaped with fat gathering on your lower body (on the buttocks or thighs)? Excess weight below the waist creates a pear-shaped body and does not appear to pose as much risk for weight-related health problems as weight carried above the waist.

Letters

Head Start plays fundamental part in children's education process

Dear Head Start Department,

My wife, Carmen, and I certainly wish the staff and students of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Head Start Program a Happy New Year in 2003. Please accept this donation in support of your continued good work in the area of childhood education.

I would like to take a moment of your time to provide an explanation of our interest in the Choctaw Nation Head Start program.

I am a tribal member arising from my grandmother's inclusion on the tribal rolls. Her name was Charlotte Hampton Edmonds. I have taken a great deal of pleasure from seeing the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma make significant progress in effectively providing for the basic needs of its citizens. We consider education, including Head Start, to be one of the most important of those basic requirements.

Carmen and I view education as a process of inspiring people to select life and career choices on the basis of their talents and those things for which they develop a passion. As children we need to know and understand all the shapes and sizes that opportunities come in. One size does not fit all. The Head Start Program can play such a fundamental part in that process. If you stay open to the opportunities, you have a much better chance of finding a path that makes sense for you as an individual and that can keep you motivated and wanting to achieve more. That's the passion of which I speak.

The same pathway is not selected by everyone, as we have experienced in our own family. Nor is an individual necessarily destined for one and only one pathway. Differing paths do not mean wrong or lesser choices – just individual ones. What's important is having the opportunity and knowledge to make a good choice for you – one that will lead to a productive and happy life. The right and opportunity to seek an informed choice belongs to the children of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma just as it should to all other children in America.

Thanks for your contribution to ensuring the process works to provide future generations of strong, independent and passionate Choctaw citizens. We are happy to support your efforts.

Don and Carmen Farrell

Tribe assists with education

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am writing this letter to personally thank the Choctaw Nation for providing financial assistance for my first year in college. I am very grateful that the Tribe could help me with my education. It made the first year of college easier for me and my family. Thank you.

**Bret Benedict
Waxahachie, Texas**

Choctaw student receives degree

Dear Chief Pyle,

I am the proud great-granddaughter of original enrollee William Wilson Daniel. I would like to express my thanks to Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department for the scholarship I received to continue my education at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico. With the help of the scholarship, I recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology. I am grateful for the tribe's help in continuing my education.

**Melissa Moses,
Portales, New Mexico**

Descendents of Isaac L. Burris

Dear Editor,

I have a picture of Isaac and Eliza Burris' tombstone showing Isaac as 77 years old at the time of his death on December 6, 1897. However, the 1885 Choctaw census shows him as 53 years old, so he may have been born as late as 1832. Isaac and Eliza are buried in Burris Cemetery #2, in Burris Valley, now Jack Fork, Oklahoma.

My grandmother was Sophia Jones (John?) Thurlow, born May 4, 1867, died April 24, 1899. In that same 1885 Choctaw census, Grandma was listed as Sophia *John*. Yet, a list of family information written many years ago by my mother, Josephine Thurlow Kidd, shows, "Sophia *Jones*, daughter of T. Jones (or may be J. Jones) and Tennessee Burris." I was always told that Grandma grew up in the Isaac Burris home.

Some of my questions are:

1. Was Tennessee Burris a daughter of Isaac and Minnie, his former wife? If not, what relation was Tennessee Burris to Isaac? Minnie, who died in 1870, is buried in Burris Cemetery #1.

2. What happened to Tennessee Burris requiring Grandma to be raised by Isaac Burris?

3. Family history says that Isaac and Eliza were poisoned. She died one day; he died the next. Can anyone shed light on this?

4. Although I've been told there's no family connection to Colbert A. Burris, Chickasaw, I wonder why C.A. Burris named a son Isaac.

5. Three children of Isaac and Eliza are buried in Burris #1 Cemetery along with Isaac's former wife, Minnie. Are there any confirmed children of either Minnie or Eliza known to live to adulthood?

6. What was Minnie's maiden name and what was Eliza's maiden name?

I am 83 years old and certainly would like to know more about my Burris ancestry beyond my great-grandmother, Tennessee Burris. Anyone with any information that may answer my questions can e-mail me at papadocs@clnk.com or write to Vernon Kidd, P.O. Box 543, Heavener, OK 74937.

**Gregory E. Pyle
Chief**

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The BISHINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISHINIK reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be typewritten and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached.

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

A bit of history ...



Front row, left to right: Coach Clelland Billy, Willis Wesley, Phillip Billy, Clifford Davis, Mahli Billy (in front), Co-Captain Gary Tushka, Farlin Jessie, Dean McKinney, Tommy Davis. Back row: Charlie Willis, Gary Jones, Jerry Denson, LeLand Samuels, Carl McKinney, Jimmy Jessie, Co-Captain Wendell Billy, Coach Curtis Billy. Not shown: Jimmy Willis and Danny Watson.

"Broken Bow Kapucha Washoha 1977"

USA Bicentennial Celebration – July 4, 1976 – Washington, D.C.

Oklahoma Indians of Choctaw Nation played Choctaw stickball (kapucha) opposite Georgetown University lacrosse players in 1976. Each team of players taught the other how to play lacrosse and kapucha. Lacrosse players couldn't catch the ball. They said the ball was too small. It was good for the Choctaw players. They thought the pockets, the ball, and the sticks were big. When will we return? In about 100 years when our hair has turned white.

Choctaw visits Russian university

Dear Chief Pyle,

I am the daughter of an original enrollee, Eva Blanche Southard, who is deceased. I have been following my Choctaw heritage most of my life. About two years ago, I had the wonderful opportunity to go to Ufa, Russia. They gave me a certificate of appreciation for speaking about 90 hours to classes at the American Bashkir University. Also, I spoke to kindergarten and grade school students. My talks were focused on American Indians, but in particular, the Choctaws. The students were especially enamored with our American Indian background, because their native peoples have shared similar backgrounds.

My preparation for doing this work came from graduate work in American Indian history and a master's degree in education. Your office was so kind to send me information that I found valuable in teaching the classes. Also, they sent a supply of Choctaw seals that the students enjoyed receiving.

The American Bashkir University has extended an invitation for me to teach for a semester and I will probably go back within the next year or so.



The President of the American Bashkir University in Russia and Mary Lou Speckheuer.

**Mary Lou Speckheuer
Norfolk, Virginia**

Tribal programs impressive

Dear Chief Pyle,

I visited my aunt in July in Talihina. She gave me a tour of the old hospital, doctors quarters, new quarters and new hospital. I was quite impressed. Everything was so well kept. It's a shame something can't be done with the remaining buildings. Their structure is superb.

I also saw the new elder homes and was very pleased. I'm pleased about her health care as well.

Again, I was quite impressed and am so proud of all that has been happening in our nation.

**Betty Lorene Wright Fesniak
Forked River, New Jersey**

Searching for information on ancestors

Dear Editor,

I am searching for lost family with Choctaw and Cherokee heritage from Oklahoma, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio and California:

R.W. Robert Andrews and Annie Evons, date of birth 1843 and 1855, Ohio; Willis Lee Andrews and Arvilla Udora Miranda, date of birth 1872 and 1875; George Miranda and Hazel Miranda, date of birth 1834 and 1838; Hugh Yargel, Mary Jane Shreck, Griffith Shreck or Schreck, 1837-1838; Hanna Jones, 1846; Cecilia Belie Schreck or Shreck, 1873; Ethel Bell Yargel, 1902; Arthur Wilber Andrews, 1894; Herman Horkstrom, Edward William Horkstrom, Leona Mae Wright, Harry Cecil Wright and Cecil Wright.

If anyone has heard of or have any information on any of these, please contact me. Thank you.

**Harry W. Andrews #8324
P.O. Box 500
Grady, Arkansas 71644-0500**

Mail "makes my day"

Dear Choctaw Nation,

You cannot imagine how much your Christmas card means to me since I get so few in the mailbox.

Thank YOU *ALL* so much for "making my day" every year. The calendar is also a wonderful gift.

**Cecilia Robinson
Bokchito, Oklahoma**

Choctaw Hymn Songs Available on Compact Disc

Recorded by
Boiling Springs United Methodist Church
Allen, Oklahoma

Over 20 different songs recorded with the new and old tunes.
\$17.00 each

Order information:
Phone: (580) 272-0905
e-mail: frazier_ron@hotmail.com
Write: Boiling Springs Church
c/o Rev. Jeff Frazier
Rt. 8 Box 224
Ada, OK 74820

Church builds new fellowship hall

Dear Chief Pyle,

Our church is in the process of building a fellowship hall. Our first step was to get the walls, roof and doors up in order to have a building "in the dry." Our building fund was just short of having enough but a decision was made to proceed and trust that God would provide. A church representative recently contacted District 9 Tribal Councilman Ted Dosh and asked if the Choctaw Nation might contribute some to the cause since the new fellowship hall will be a benefit to the community.

Mr. Dosh immediately came to your office and brought the request before you. Thanks to his immediate action and your gracious approval, we were able to complete the first stage of our new building before Christmas.

Our thanks to you Chief Pyle, to Councilman Ted Dosh, and to the Choctaw Nation for this humanitarian action.

**Pastor Jerry Kiddle
First Baptist Church,
Bennington, Oklahoma**

Online research guide is available for Carlisle Indian Industrial School

Dear Editor,

In response to the growing interest in the Carlisle Indian Industrial School (1879-1918), an online research guide is now available from the Cumberland County Historical Society. Please visit www.historicalsociety.com/cliswelcome.html to learn about the information and photographs in our collection. For a list of nations who had students at the school, please visit www.epix.net/~landis/tall.html.

**Kelly P. Melphis, Indian School Researcher Intern
Cumberland County Historical Society**

Ancestral information needed

Dear Editor,

My maternal great-grandmother, Johanna Haynes, was born in Georgia. If anyone has any information on her, please contact me. Thank you.

**Roland Alexander
2123 Tibbetts-Wick Rd.
Girard, OH 44420**

Seeking family members

Dear Editor,

This letter is on behalf of Ed Samuel Billy, a resident of the Carl T. Curtis Nursing Home, located on the Omaha reservation in Macy, Nebraska. Mr. Billy has asked us for assistance in contacting any living family members. We, the facility, are trying to assist him in this matter. Mr. Billy is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation. He was born in Coalgate, Oklahoma and has lived there previously. Ed's parents' names are unknown, however, he does have a sister, Yvonne Swain.

If there is any information concerning this matter, please contact Alene Wells, Social Service Designee for the Carl T. Curtis Nursing Home, at 402-837-5381, ext. 144. Mailing address is 100 Indian Hills Dr., P.O. Box 250, Macy, NE 68039. Thank you.

**Choctaw Manufacturing
Development Corporation**
has the following job opportunities available

Buyer/expediter-
Education - High school degree or equivalent. 2-year technical degree preferred. Experience in expediting purchased items. Including working with QA/QC, production and accounting. Have the ability to read blue prints and understand mechanical and electrical systems. Follow and track the parts, assemblies of a major subcontractor ensuring compliance with the purchase orders.

Sub assembler- Mechanical
Education - High school degree or equivalent. 2-year technical degree preferred. Experience in working on mechanical assemblies using basic hand tools and air and electrical driven tools. Have the ability to read and follow blue prints. Being able to follow written and pictorial instructions. Follow safety procedures.

Sub assembler- Electrical
Education - High school degree or equivalent. 2-year technical degree preferred. Experience in working in and with electrical components. Ability to use basic electrical hand tools i.e. voltmeters. Read schematics; be able to follow written and pictorial instructions. Follow safety procedures

Control & Operational- Test Monitor
Education – High school degree or equivalent. Experience- this position requires paying close attention to operating machinery. The ability to follow written and pictorial instructions. Follow safety procedures. Utilizing electrical thermometers, a stopwatch and a voltmeter. Positioning heater for test and connecting the ducts.

Final Assembler
Education - High school degree or equivalent. 2-year technical degree preferred. Experience in working on mechanical assemblies using basic hand tools and air and electrical driven tools. Have the ability to read and follow blue prints and schematics. Being able to follow written and pictorial instructions. Follow safety procedures.

Final Assembly Checker
Education – High school degree or equivalent. Experience this position requires the ability to follow directions very closely and check the work of others. Operate the heater and prepare the unit for shipping. This includes the charging the system with preservative oil. Check the serial numbers and track the destination of units. Follow safety procedures.

Brake, Punch Operators and Deburr
Education - High school degree or equivalent. 2-year technical degree preferred. Experience this position requires working on heavy hydraulic punches and break to cut and form metal parts. Deburring requires the removal of sharp metal edges or burrs from the punched and formed parts. Have the ability to read and follow blue prints. Follow safety procedures.

**Please contact
ADAM ROUTON, GM
CMDC
203 CHOCTAW INDUSTRIAL DRIVE
HUGO, OK 74743
or e-mail arouton@choctawnation.com**

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Health specialists, new facilities enhance care

Health care for Choctaw people is one of the most important services the Choctaw Nation is able to provide. Building our own hospital in 1999 was a gigantic step of progress, and the increase in medical staff has made amazing improvements in both quantity and quality of care to patients.

Choctaw Nation Health Services continues to grow rapidly. A new building is being constructed beside the hospital in Talihina that will be dedicated as a Diabetes Wellness Center, freeing up the hospital clinic space that is now being used for the Diabetes Center. The tribe employs a full-time endocrinologist and many other experts to offer the most advanced and innovative health care and education for people who are diabetic or at risk of having diabetes.

A brand new outpatient clinic in Stigler is in the planning stages, and construction is expected to start this summer. A 20 bed Recovery Center is also on the drawing board. The Center will be located on the old hospital campus at Talihina.

The OB/GYN services offered at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina are well above average. Pain management is offered for deliveries, and the OB unit at the hospital has earned the reputation as a center of excellence.

There are now four providers for anesthesia employed at the hospital, and pediatric dentistry is offered nine days a month.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organiza-

tions (JCAHO) sets the standard of health care organizations across the United States. The average score of hospitals is in the upper 80's to the lower 90's. The Choctaw Nation Health Care Services recently received accreditation from the JCAHO and I am proud to announce that the score we received was 94.

We are beginning a project through Choctaw Nation Health Services to learn more about diabetes and cardiovascular issues so that we can combat these problems that dominate the health of many tribal members. The Randy Bailey/Gina Stanley Healthy Heart Project will assist community people in their quest to improve their health. This project will help us to understand the best ways to prevent and treat heart disease and hypertension among tribal members. If you should receive a survey/questionnaire, please fill it out and return it as soon possible. This vital information will help us establish programs to assist those with cardiovascular problems. In addition, diabetes, which is a huge concern to us all, can also cause cardiovascular disease.

Randy Bailey and Gina Stanley were both former employees of the Choctaw Nation who were diabetic and died due to cardiovascular complications. They dealt with personal health problems for many years and would be happy to know that their names were associated with services that could help others to live longer, healthier lives.



From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

Generous friend to youth

My job as Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation is very rewarding. There are opportunities to work with brilliant people in tribal, state and national government, creating programs and businesses that can benefit Native Americans and community members of Choctaw Nation. The tribe is always anxious to progress and to improve job opportunities and contribute to the well-being of Choctaws.

One very special undertaking that is very exciting is how the generosity of an up-and-coming country musician and singer is going to help young people. Brian Gowan has become a great friend to the Choctaw Nation, lending his extensive talent as a songwriter and singer to the aid of children.

Brian Gowan has a ten-song CD, "I Am Strong", with all proceeds going to benefit children with cancer and blood disorders who are receiving care at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple,

Texas. Brian has also just finished a single, "Choctaw People", which will have a portion of the proceeds going to Jones Academy, the residential school operated by the Choctaw Nation.

This single will be available for sale in the next few weeks. "Choctaw People" is a result of a joint effort between Brian and myself. After several meetings with the Choctaw Nation, Brian asked me to write some lyrics but it is Brian's expertise in the wording that makes this song so beautiful. It tells the story of the Trail of Tears, and the strength of our tribe as we grew to be a very successful Nation.

Brian and his wife, Shannon, (a 3rd grade teacher) have one son, Clayton. His family gives him a great deal of support in his endeavors to befriend and help youth. It is tremendous to know that the Choctaw Nation can count on the support of such great friends as he.



Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

Reservations for Labor Day RV sites begin March 3

PAYMENTS

No reservations will be made without full payment; payment to be in the form of money order or cashier's check if making payment in person cash – NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. All personal checks received 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, 2003. All pads not filled by 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 30, 2003 will be offered to those on a waiting list.

A fee will be charged to these RV campers, yet no refund be

2003 RV SPACE RESERVATION

No reservations will be accepted prior to March 3

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

RV self contained camper description and length:

Please return to:
Choctaw Management Services Enterprise
Att: Margaret Teal or John Brewer
2102 W. Arkansas
Durant, OK 74701

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.

A walk-in session will be held at 8 a.m. March 3, 2002 at the Choctaw Community Center in Durant, Oklahoma.

GENERAL PARKING

No RVs will be allowed to park in general parking.

ANIMALS

NO DOGS will 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.

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.

Arts & Crafts

Reservations will be accepted beginning March 3, 2003. For more information, please contact **Tanya Allen** at the Tribal Complex, 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2137.

Food Vendors

The deadline for food vendors is March 14, 2003. For more information, please contact **Tanya Allen** at the Tribal Complex, 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2137.