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February 2005 Issue

# Photo needed to enhance exhibit

The Choctaw Nation Capitol Museum will be focusing on the Removal Exhibit this year in addition to other projects. According to "The Choctaw" by Jesse O. McKee, "The Choctaw wasted no time in developing their new land ... only months after the second removal, the Choctaw had already produced a surplus of 40,000 bushels of corn "

The Museum would like to relate this fact with a photo. If anyone has a photo that shows Choctaws working in a field of corn or a picture with a similar theme, we would be very interested in getting a copy of it. We would prefer a picture taken no later than the early 1900s if possible. This would help greatly to show the period of time of the Removal.

Please contact Beverly Nelson, 1-800-522-6170, Ext. 2485, or 580-924-8280, Ext. 2485; or at bnelson@choctawnation. com.

Higher Education applications due March 15

Attention: 2005-06 Students

The deadline to receive applications for higher education is March 15. The application can be found and printed off the Choctaw Nation website – www.choctawnation.com.

# **Choctaw Nation takes a bold step**

Tribe is building new school for American Indian children at Jones Academy

The Choctaw Nation has a proud history of emphasizing education. With assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Choctaw Nation was the first American Indian Tribe to establish schools.

Jones Academy, located in Hartshorne, first opened its doors in 1891. Named after Wilson N. Jones, Principal Chief of the Choctaws, Jones Academy has served generations of Native American children.

In 1952, however, the BIA removed the educational aspect from the Academy's programming and it became a residential care center instead. Students at Jones then began attending school at a nearby public school.

As a residential care center, Jones Academy provides students in grades kindergarten through twelve with a safe place to live, supervision, and guidance 24 hours a day.

Each student at the Academy is a member of a federally recognized tribe and has met the criteria established by the school for admission to a boarding facility.

Jones Academy students come from 21 different tribes across the country.

# **REVIVING THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

After the Choctaw Nation assumed sole operation of Jones Academy under the Tribally Controlled Schools Grant Act in 1985, interest was revived in providing onsite education for its residents.

In 2002, the Choctaw Nation began re-establishing an onsite academic program for students in grades one and two at Jones Academy. The following year, the Nation expanded the program to serve students in grades three and four as well. An architect's rendering of the new school to be built on the campus of Jones Academy reveals, clockwise from bottom left, a gymnasium, sixth-eighth grade classrooms, administration offices, third-fifth grade classrooms and kindergarten-second grade classrooms.

# **COMPLETING THE CIRCLE**

In order to complete the circle at Jones Academy, the Choctaw Nation is taking bold steps to build a new state-of-the-art facility for students in grades kindergarten through eight. (Students in grades nine through twelve will continue to attend public school in a nearby district).

"With the addition of a high quality school and academic programs, each Indian child at Jones Academy will now have the opportunity to grow and develop academically, socially, morally, and physically," said Gregory E. Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

"We want to ensure that American Indian students have the opportunity to learn in a safe environment that adequately prepares them to pursue a college degree or enter the world ready to work after graduation," Pyle added.

The 65,000-square-foot facility will provide for ample classrooms, technology rooms, a full-size gymnasium, and administrative offices. Each of the kindergarten, first, and second grade classes will be able to enjoy the use of separate rooms. There is also a classroom specifically developed for students with special needs. "We will be able to provide an exciting range of new activities for our students, including Choctaw language and history classes along with cultural and recreational events," stated Spears. The facility has been designed so that students (grouped by grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 respectively) are housed in a separate wing off the main hub of the facility. School administrators expect this will assist in age-appropriate activities and operation. Each wing is equipped with a high quality safe room in case of storms or other emergencies. A great deal of research has gone into the design of the facility, including the selection of a new type of lighting that is proven to help children do better in school, as well as security cameras and wireless technology.

Related articles, photos and an application for helping the children at Jones Academy can be found on Page 3.

The costs of this endeavor are significant. In addition to providing for the annual school operating expenses, the Nation will have to raise over \$9 million dollars to build this new facility. Eventually new dorms will also have to be built to accommodate the growing student population.

# WITH YOUR HELP

Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey are strong advocates of education and continue to work tirelessly to enhance learning opportunities for all Indian children.

"We understand the immeasurable value a quality education can have on an individual's self-worth and economic growth. We want to make sure we properly prepare every child at Jones Academy for a bright future," said Assistant Chief Mike Bailey.

"We will need the support of every Choctaw to make the dream of a high quality academic program at Jones Academy a reality," he added. "We are asking you to share in this opportunity by making a contribution today."

# Head Start begins spring recruiting

The Choctaw Nation Head Start Program is recruiting prospective students for the 2005-06 school year. Although the program accepts applications year-round, each year in the spring a concerted effort is made to identify children who might be eligible for the Head Start Services. This program serves threeto five-year-old children of all nationalities, including children with disabilities. Indian preference preferred. The Head Start program is directed primarily toward low-income families, although we do have limited openings for over-income families as well.

Choctaw Nation Head Start provides families with assistance in their effort to obtain educational, health, nutritional and social services. The program provides a nutritionally sound breakfast and lunch each day. Families of children with special needs are encouraged to apply. The Head Start program assists families in obtaining needed support services.

For more information and to obtain an application, contact the Choctaw Nation Head Start Centers in Antlers, Atoka, Bennington, Bethel, Broken Bow, Coalgate, Durant, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, Stigler, Wilburton and Wright City. You may also contact the Durant Administration office at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2373. With the reinstitution of an onsite academic program, the Choctaw Nation is better equipped to serve its American Indian students.

"We all know the great challenges young children face in the world today. At Jones Academy, we care tremendously about our students and work diligently to provide the support and encouragement they need to overcome their challenges," said Brad Spears, Director of Jones Academy.

"National statistics report that American Indian students now hold one of the highest secondary school dropout rates and lowest postsecondary graduation rates of any ethnic group in the United States. The leaders of the Choctaw Nation feel a growing urgency to develop a high quality academic system to ensure Jones Academy students do not become part of these dismal statistics," Spears added. Your help is needed in the form of a donation of \$10, \$25, or \$50, or any amount you are able to give, that will be used to help build the school building.

To make a donation, please complete the form located on Page 3 and send it back to us along with your donation to: Jones Academy Foundation, c/o Joy Culbreath/Education Department, PO Drawer 1210, Durant, OK 74702-1210.

Or if you wish, you may call toll free to **1-888-932-9199** and make a contribution using a credit card. Any donation you make is tax deductible. For more information, please contact Joy Culbreath, Executive Director of Education, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, 1-800-522-6170, Ext. 2308.

# History Channel awards grant to Historical Society

The History Channel has announced that the Choctaw Nation Historical Society will receive a \$10,000 inaugural Save Our History Grant to partner with 50 students in grades nine to twelve from Jones Academy. The grant will be used to document the rich history of the Choctaw Nation, a history passed from generation to generation through oral tradition.

The Choctaw Nation Historical Society is one of 29 history organizations across the country to receive Save Our History community preservation grants to fund innovative educational projects designed to bring communities together and engage children in the preservation of their local history.

With each passing generation, elders are lost, and slowly the Choctaw Nation's history disappears. The "Anompa Sipokni, Old Talking Places" project will connect tribal youth with tribal elders in an intergenerational experience meant to share and appreciate past and current cultural history. The Save Our History Grant will provide Jones Academy students the opportunity to make site visits representing four aspects of Choctaw history - Government/Chiefs, Education, Social History and Archaeology. Each student will make a contribution to the Choctaw Nation Historical Society Quarterly Journal. Additionally, video and audio tapes documenting the students' research, site visits, oral histories, and traditional Choctaw ceremonies, rituals and stories will be archived at the Choctaw Nation Historical Society. The records will be the first archived by the Choctaw Nation and will provide future generations with an understanding of the history, culture, and proud heritage of their ancestors.

# 2005 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and members of the Choctaw Tribal Council are fortunate to be among a delegation from the tribe attending the 2005 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C. on January 20. Pictured above, on the way to view President George W. Bush repeat his oath of office for a second term, are Vicki Amos and Mike Amos, District 2 Councilman and Council Speaker, and Delores Cox and Delton Cox, District 4 Councilman.

# **Searching for Taylor descendants**

#### Dear Editor,

I am searching for descendants of Syllan Durant Taylor. They arrived in Lukfata in 1852 from Mississippi. She came with her children and settled in Neshoba County. Her children were Alex (Ellick), Jack, Jackson, Soloman and Elizabeth, and a granddaughter, Emeline. Nothing further is known of Syllan. Elizabeth married Drew Arrington and Jackson married Rebecca Ashford Cross. She had two other daughters – Nancy, who stayed in Mississippi, and Eliza, the deceased mother of Emeline. I will answer all letters.

Letters

Carl Phillips 3640 Kincade Dr. Placerville, CA 95667 530-626-6602; chahta@cwnet.com

# **Cold War Certificates available**

#### Dear Editor,

A citizen of San Diego, California, I have worked for the Navy for the past 25 years in a civilian capacity. I do not know if all veterans are aware of the Cold War Certificate program, so I am sending this out in hopes that the word will be spread. I applied for the certificate five years ago. It took about four months to receive. Nice little wall hanger. Please go to http://www.129aha.org/Cold%20War%20Application. htm.

# David Kirby

(Editor's Note: The Army News Service has reported that service members, veterans, and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States between September 2, 1945, and December 26, 1991, are eligible for a Cold War Recognition Certificate. Acceptable supporting documents include any official government or military document containing the recipient's name, Social Security number, Military Service number or Foreign Service number, and a date showing at least one day of service during the Cold War era. More information can be found at PERSCOM's Cold War website, https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/coldwar/default. htm, or by calling customer service at 1-703-325-5864.)

# Color Guard, singers are commended

#### **Dear Editor,**

This is a special thank you letter commending the outstanding job the Choctaw Color Guard and the Choctaw singers did at the funeral of Arvil Tom "A.T." Battles on December 29. A.T.'s family was honored by the VFW and the Choctaw working together to send off a World War II Navy vet with the highest honor that could be bestowed upon him.

A.T. was always very proud of his Choctaw heritage.

We wish to thank the Choctaw BISHINIK paper for all of your work past and present. This was his and still is our favorite paper.

Jake and Iona (Battles) Ellerbee

# **Seeking information**

#### **Dear Editor,**

I am seeking information on my grandparents and great-grandparents: grandmothers Mary K. Duke, born 10-30-1876 in Arkansas, died 2-18-1976; Lucinda Jane Cooper, born 2-18-1855, died 8-9-1921; Sarah Foster, born 9-10-1816 in South Carolina; Louisa Lucy Adeline Hollis, born 1-1-1852, died 12-30-1938; Sarah Wills, born 1845; and grandfathers Andrew Jackson Duke, born 10-6-1855, died 5-8-1927; Bartlett Duke, born 2-16-1810 in South Carolina, died 4-10-1834; Moses Duke, born 1780 in South Carolina, died in 1850 in Alabama; George Washington Cooper, born 11-13-1827, died 6-4-1864; Thomas Foster, born about 1780 in South Carolina, died before 1838; Lewis Thomas Jefferson Hollis, born 10-17-1818, died 3-26-1862; James Hefley, born 1848.



# Dedication held at Choctaw Chief's House

A new marker was dedicated at the Apuckshunubee District Choctaw Chief's House on December 11, 2004, by the Colonial Dames XVII Century Oklahoma Society.

The ceremony, attended by about 20 people, also served as a showcase for the newly built office building next to the restored 1832 dogtrot home. The Swink Historical Preservation Association has been instrumental in getting the office built.

Phyllis M. Inslee, president of the Oklahoma Society of the preservation organization, addressed the gathering and helped its local chapter chairman, Lila Swink, unveil the marker. Inslee also read a letter praising efforts to preserve the home from the groups' President General, Mary Johnston.

The group's chairman of marking and preserving historic sites, June McCuistion, said the home met the Colonial Dames' strict requirements to earn the marker.

"We wish to mark this and preserve this for future generations," McCuistion said.Swink and several relatives of people born in the home were on hand for the ceremony. She put out Choctaw, American and Oklahoma flags across the home's facade and offered tours of both the home and the new office.

"It's just wonderful that it's still here," Swink said. "I think it's one of Choctaw County's premiere historic sites."

The home was built as part of the U.S. treaty obligations with the



Choctaws, who were still traveling the Trail of Tears from Mississippi homelands in the 1830s. It was home to the region's Choctaw chiefs for many years. Oklahoma Historical Society restored the home in the 1960s, and the local Swink group was formed to block its dismantling and removal to nearby Ft. Towson Historic Site, which was planned a decade ago.

The marker proclaims the home the "oldest structure in the Choctaw Nation and State of Oklahoma."

The following people were credited with donations of time, effort, and money to bring the marker to Swink: Lila Swink, June McCuistion, Darlene Shawn, Janice Gunn, Vee Troxel, Diane King, the Washita Trace Chapter of Colonial Dames XVII Century, Mae Hylton, Ruth McCormick, Donna Lamb, Nancy Chotkey, Dorothy Hamill, and Phyllis Inslee.

The home is located northeast of Swink, Oklahoma, and is open for tours, weddings and other events. For information, call 580-873-2301.

# **Deupree retiring after 31 years of dedication**

"Barbara is a very caring human being, especially when it came to her involvement with the children. I know the staff and children at the Hugo Center will miss her greatly." – Rebecca Clapp, Director

Choctaw Nation Head Start



I know some of them were Indian but not sure if they were Choctaw or Cherokee.

If anyone has any information they can contact me at:

Carlene Nichols Box 83 Main St. Pittsburg, OK 74560

# Many shared the Christmas spirit Dear Editor,

The Choctaw Nation Community Based Social Work & Victim Assistance Programs wish to thank everyone who helped with the "Share the Spirit of Christmas Project." We realize the holiday season is a busy time for everyone, so to those of you who took time to sponsor an elder angel, deliver gifts, help prepare or distribute the Christmas food baskets, we say THANK YOU!

We would like to recognize Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey, Tribal Council Members, Vocational Rehab & PWI staff, gaming staff, and other tribal employees for all the assistance they provided to make this a successful project. We also want to commend Joyce Wells and the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board Members as well as Faye Balew with the Pushmataha County DHS and the Pushmataha County Youth Board for their volunteer time spent on this project. Due to your efforts, many needy Choctaw elders and families had a better Christmas. Thank you.

Randy Hammons and staff

Gregory E. Pyle Mike Bailey Chief The Official Assistant Chief Monthly Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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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® 2005

The Head Start children at Hugo were concerned when Miss Barbara wasn't seen in the kitchen.

"Is she in the hospital?" asks one young man. A familiar, loving face was missing, so something must be wrong.

Everyone was quick to reassure the boys and girls – Barbara Deupree wasn't ill. She retired January 21 after 13 1/2 years as a cook for the Choctaw Head Start program. She worked 18 years in the public school system prior to being employed by the Choctaw Nation.

"I loved working here," Barbara smiles. "The public school system was good, but this was the best."

Staff members threw her a party on January 17. She was also presented with a certificate of appreciation and a Choctaw afghan by Head Start Director Rebecca Clapp.

"Over the years working with Barbara has been an honor and a pleasure to get to know her on both a professional and a personal basis," said Ms. Clapp. "She is a very caring human being, especially when it came to her involvement with the children. I know the staff and children at the Hugo Center will miss her greatly. It is my sincere hope that her retirement years will bring her joy and fulfillment.

"Best wishes to you, Barbara, and don't forget to visit us when you have the opportunity."

Barbara and husband Paul live on 180 acres located about five miles outside of Hugo, Oklahoma. The couple raise dairy cattle.

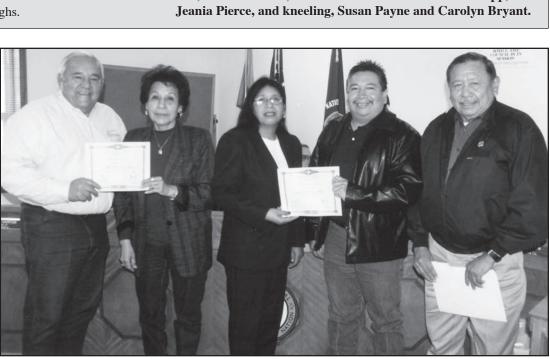
"I'm busier than ever," she laughs.

# Language teachers receive certification

Two Choctaw language teachers received their certificates at the January 8, 2005, Tribal Council meeting. Margaret Battiest of Lawton and Eleanor Caldwell of Wright City are now certified to conduct class.

The Tribal Council agreed to show support of County Sheriff's departments in the 12 counties where Choctaw Nation businesses and properties are located by donating \$5,000 annually to each of those departments. The counties included in this allocation are Bryan, Coal, Hughes, Atoka, Pittsburg, Pushmataha, Haskell, Sequoyah, LeFlore, McCurtain, Choctaw and Latimer.

Council members voted to



Councilman Jack Austin, Council Speaker Mike Amos and Richard Adams, Language Department, present new instructors Eleanor Caldwell and Margaret Battiest with their teaching certificates.

approve funding for the 14th Annual Choctaw Nation Swine/ Beef Show in the amount of \$11,000.

Guidelines and policies relating to tribal lands and buildings were approved. Other business included:

• Approval to apply to the Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce for the "Grants for Public Works and Economic Development Facilities" Grant. • Approval of a farming and grazing lease in Pittsburg County in favor of Janet Dalton, and

• Approval to apply to the Department of Health and Human Services for an Administration on Aging Grant.

Wishing Barbara Deupree well on her retirement after 13 1 /2 years with the Choctaw Nation Head Start department are, standing, Fieriel Raper, Zene Dill, Alicia Gibson, Brenda Ivie, Debbie Allred, Head Start Director Rebecca Clapp, and Jeania Pierce, and kneeling, Susan Payne and Carolyn Bryant.

# From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle ...

# **American Indian children need your support**

The Choctaw Nation helps children in a number of ways, one of which is through the program at Jones Academy in Hartshorne.

Since 1891, Jones Academy has provided a home and services to American Indian children from over 21 tribes across the country. Students at Jones live in dormitories and participate in a broad range of activities. However until recently, they attended academic school outside of the Academy.

By 2002, we felt a growing need to establish an onsite academic program for Jones Academy students. We have successfully developed educational activities for students in grades one through four, but much work needs to be done to expand these efforts.

Our goal is to establish onsite academic facilities and educational programs for Jones Academy students in grades kindergarten through

One of the most important things we can do in life is help children. eight. The costs to create our desired high quality program are significant. That's why we are asking for your help.

> Currently, the Choctaw Nation is working to raise monies to build the required facilities. As you'll see from the picture included with the Jones Academy article on the front page of this newspaper, the facilities will provide a tremendous opportunity for learning. With their construction and the hiring of staff, we'll be able to give the children at Jones the academic support they so desperately need to develop into strong, successful individuals.

> I hope you join with us in this effort to support children in need at Jones Academy.

> I assure you the gift you give will be used wisely and well to truly improve the lives of Jones Academy students. I thank you for your support.

# 2005 officers chosen for **IT Council**

New officers took over during the regular quarterly meeting of the Five Civilized Tribes Inter-Tribal Council Meeting in January. Serving in 2005 as President is Chief A.D. Ellis of the Muscogee Creek Nation; Vice President, Chief Gregory E. Pyle of the Choctaw Nation, and Secretary/Treasurer, Terri Haney of the Seminole Nation.

A resolution was introduced and approved in support of a delegation of Executive Committee members visiting Native American service people in Iraq. The group would like to be allowed to visit our troops, conveying to them our



Chief Kenneth Chambers, Seminole Nation; Chief Chad Smith, Cherokee Nation; Chief A.D. Ellis, Muscogee Creek Nation, President; Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Choctaw Nation, Vice President, and Gov. Bill Annotubby, Chickasaw Nation.

full support and concern for their safety.

The Council also showed its support of equitable funding from USDA to offset staff reductions in the Southwest Region Food Distribution Programs; approved this year's Bridge the Gap Conference; and adopted the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes Legislative Agenda for the 109th Congress.

The next meeting will be hosted by the Chickasaw Nation, April 7-8.



# **Chaplain's Corner**

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

Again, I am thankful for this privilege to fellowship with you around God's Word. The Word of God is spiritual food for spiritual life.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, an interview took place in the city of Jerusalem. This conversation is heard "around the world." Nicodemus



we are saints.

The one message that comes through loud and clear is - a new birth for all is an "absolute must." It is the only way to receive salvation. With that in mind, we read these words to Nicodemus in John 3:6-7: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey ...

# We want to give all Choctaws the opportunity to share in building the new school at Jones Academy

As many of you know, Jones Academy and the American Indian children it serves are of special importance to me.

We all know the great challenges our children face in today's world. During my 13 years as Director of Jones Academy, I saw hundreds of children overcome their specific challenges and graduate with success thanks to the services we provided them.

Recently, the Choctaw Nation made a commitment to improve the services at Jones Academy. We have begun establishing an onsite academic program for students in grades kindergarten through eight (previously students in these grades had to attend public school off campus).

We are vigorously working to raise money to build the muchneeded school building to house the new program, but classrooms and gymnasiums don't come cheap.

The Choctaw Nation, employees, and individuals nationwide are joining in the effort to build the new facility. We need your support as well.

Your gift will mean a great deal to the children who



# YES! I want to help the children at Jones Academy.

Here's my gift of:

\$100	\$50	\$25	\$15	\$10

□ Other \$

had come to talk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

In this interview the Savior made an announcement which came as quite a surprise to a religious leader of his day. Jesus told him plainly: "Ye must be born again."

That life-transforming, supernatural birth of which Jesus spoke on that never-to-be-forgotten night is on the minds of millions today. There is an amazing and widespread interest in being born again. It has become front-page news. Well-known personalities - professionals in the sports world, television and movie celebrities, political leaders - testify to the reality of their new birth.

More people are talking about being born again than ever before, however, it has become evident that many do not have the slightest idea of what Jesus really had in mind. (Matthew 7:13).

Now as we look at this subject BORN AGAIN - WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT? I hope that some of your questions about regeneration will be answered - not just to satisfy your curiosity but to bring you to the place where you will know by personal experience what the new birth can mean.

We begin by turning to that famous interview between Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3:1-3:

"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Think of it! To this respected person, to this ruler of the Jews, to this teacher of Israel, our Savior said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3).

Even though Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant, this is evidently what He had in mind. You see, simply to be born again the same way we came into the world the first time wouldn't do us any good - not even if it were repeated ten, or a hundred times! We would still enter the world as sinners. It is only as we are born again – born from above – that we qualify for the kingdom of God.

Our first birth is from below, the second birth is from above. Our first birth is natural; the new birth is spiritual. Our first birth makes us a member of a fallen race; the second birth makes us a member of a redeemed race. Our first birth gives us a depraved nature; our second birth gives us a divine nature. Born the first time according to the flesh, we are sinners; born the second time by the Spirit of God,

spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

Yes, Jesus said that you must be born again. That rebirth involves an act of God. It is far beyond the work of man. The Lord works within our hearts to bring us to

I

Himself. The result is a real personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The new birth is not something we can manufacture. It is not the receiving of some vision or religious feeling, nor the turning over a new leaf, not even "no one is telling me what to do, I'll do it when I get ready." It is only by the work of God whereby we receive a new and holy nature. That is involved in being born again - It is a supernatural, spiritual birth from above that takes place the moment a person puts his trust in Jesus Christ. We are told in John 1:12:

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

Our Choctaw preachers in their language said as they proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ: "Achukmalit illa nukfila shke!" (Let us carefully think, meditate, on these truths). They added in music, Choctaw Hymn No. 112, announcing:

"Mitak ishtaiyopikmuno, Chisus ut mihintit, "Um ulla holitopa ma! Chi hot aya lishke. "Chim aiasha ikbi li hosh ia li tok ocha,

"Chim ataiyahli li tuk osh, Chi hot ula lishke." Interpreted" "Jesus returning, on that last Day announces, 'I am coming for you my precious children! I left to build you a heavenly home, it is ready, I have come for you'."

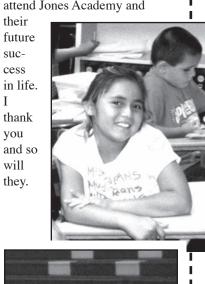
This is a familiar statement and invitation hymn and hundreds of Choctaws have responded.

Having heard and read the Word of God and the testimonies of our born again believers and having been convicted by the Spirit of God, you place your faith in the Son of God - and a miracle occurs! You are born again from above. You become a child of God. (John 1:12). You become a member of God's family. You are cleansed from all your sin by your faith in the Savior.

Have you ever been born again? If not, come to Jesus Christ now. By an act of faith in His Word, His promise and His blood, receive Him into your heart and life. If you have been serious about it, there has already been a change in you. Your sins have been forgiven and you are now a child of God. You can say with many others, "I have been born again." The new life, the life from above, now dwells within your heart.

Remember to pray for America and for our Native America. God bless you.

attend Jones Academy and





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Please return this form along with your gift to: Jones Academy Foundation c/o Joy Culbreath, Education Department P O Drawer 1210 Durant, OK 74702-1210

# Your contribution is greatly appreciated!

For more information on how you can help, please contact Joy Culbreath, Executive Director of Education Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2308

- Your Donation is Tax Deductible -



A group from the Choctaw Nation attended the American Indian National Finals Rodeo in San Jacinto, California, in support of Region 8 finalists. Pictured, front from left, are Councilman Perry Thompson, Council Speaker Mike Amos, Councilman Ted Dosh, Councilman Hap Ward and Pam Worley; in back, Rick Nored, Allen Smith, Councilman Bob Pate, Councilman James Frazier, Vickie Frazier, Bill Blankenship and Wayne Wylie.

# Healthy Living = Longer Life

# Sample the spectrum

Growing up you may have been told to eat your greens, but what about your reds, oranges, yellows and blues? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the 5 A Day Partnership encourages YOU to "Sample the Spectrum" of the colorful vegetables and fruit available this season. By putting something of every color on your plate or in your lunch bag, you are more likely to eat the five to nine recommended servings of vegetables and fruit every day.

Just think – 1 cup of dark, leafy GREENS, 1/2 cup of RED tomatoes, 1/2 cup of YELLOW peppers, 6 oz. ORANGE juice and 1/2 cup of BLUEberries - and you have 5 A Day! It's quite simple when you Sample the Spectrum.

The more reds, oranges, greens, yellows, and blues you see on the plate, the more health promoting properties you are also getting from your vegetable and fruit choices. Nutrition research shows that colorful vegetables and fruit contain essential vitamins, minerals, fiber, and phytochemicals that your body needs to promote health and help you feel great.

5 A Day for Better Health is a national program and partnership that seeks to increase the number of daily servings of fruits and vegetables Americans eat to five or more. The 5 A Day program provides easy ways to add more fruits and vegetables into your daily eating patterns.

For those who say five servings of fruits and vegetables a day sounds difficult, think again. Contrary to popular belief, eating the 5-A-Day way is easy. One serving is less than people think. And today, more than ever, there's a wider variety of fruits and vegetables from which to choose, whether they're fresh, frozen, canned, or dried.

One serving size is defined as:

3/4 cup (6 oz.) 100% fruit or vegetable juice

One medium fruit (e.g. apple, orange, banana, pear)

1/2 cup cut-up fruit

1/2 cup raw or cooked vegetables 1/4 cup dried fruit (e.g. raisins, apricots, mango)

1 cup raw, leafy vegetables 1/2 cup cooked or canned peas or

# How much exercise do I need?

Talk to your doctor about how much exercise is right for you. A good goal for many people is to work up to exercising 3 to 6 times a week for 30 to 60 minutes at a time. Remember, though, that exercise has so many benefits that any amount is better than none.

# How do I get started?

Start by talking with your doctor. This is especially important if you haven't been active, if you have any health problems, or if you're pregnant or elderly.

Start out slowly. If you've been inactive for years, vou can't run the Boston Marathon after 2 weeks of training. Begin with a 10-minute period of light exercise or a brisk walk every day and gradually increase how hard you exercise and for how long.

# Benefits of regular exercise

- Reduces your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, osteoporosis, diabetes and obesitv
- Keeps joints, tendons and ligaments flexible so it's easier to move around
- Reduces some of the effects of aging
- Contributes to your mental well-being and helps treat depression
- Helps relieve stress and anxiety
- Increases your energy and endurance
- Helps you sleep better
- Helps you maintain a normal weight by increasing your metabolism (the rate you burn calories)

# What is a target heart rate?

Measuring your heart rate (beats per minute) can tell you how hard your heart is working. You can check your heart rate by counting your pulse for 15 seconds and multiplying the beats by 4.

The chart shows the target heart rates for people of different ages. When you're just beginning an exercise program, shoot for the lower target heart rate (60%). As your fitness improves, you can exercise harder to get your heart rate closer to the top number

# Pay attention to portion sizes

It's hard to turn down a supersize, and extra-large portion at a restaurant. You tell yourself a few extra fries here or a large soda there isn't a big deal. Or maybe it's a salad and you convince yourself it's still healthy, even if you eat a dinner-size portion at lunchtime. It won't do any harm, right?

It's important to eat small portion sizes to stay healthy and ward off obesity. But how do you even know what the right size is? To help you visualize better, here's what normal portion sizes look like, according to the American Heart Association (AHA): 1 ounce of meat: size of a matchbox 3 ounces of meat: size of deck of cards or bar of soap

8 ounces of meat: size of thin paperback book

3 ounces of fish: size of checkbook 1 ounce cheese: size of four dice 2 tablespoons peanut butter: size of pingpong ball

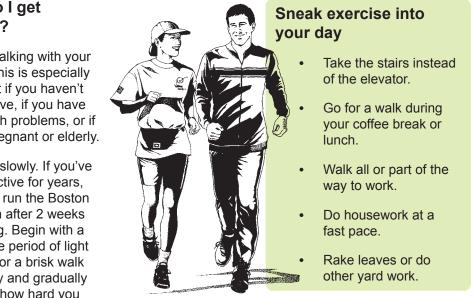
1 cup pasta: size of tennis ball regular bagel: size of hockey puck medium apple or orange: size of tennis ball cup of lettuce: four leaves 1 cup chopped raw vegetables or fruit: size of baseball

# **Electronic** Health **Records**

The Choctaw Nation Health Services will be upgrading to Electronic Health Records the week of April 11-15, 2005. During this week the wait time for receiving prescriptions will take longer for all pharmacies within the Choctaw Nation Health Services. We are encouraging all patients to pick up their refills the two weeks prior (March 28 thru April 1 and April 4 thru April 8). Also, you may wait until the week of April 18 thru 22 to receive refills. Ordering refills during the times listed above will greatly reduce patient wait time. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

# **Project SPIT** aimed at tobacco use

Through their Turning Point Coalitions, Choctaw and Pushmataha counties have formed a tobacco cessation consortium titled SPIT (Stop, Prevent and Intervene Tobacco use). This consortium will work directly with and through the communities involved, ensuring that our part of Oklahoma realizes the dangers of tobacco use. Project SPIT is funded through the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust and will follow the state's mandated guideline: Years 1-5: Strategic Planning and Training; Eliminate Secondhand Smoke; Prevent Youth Initiation; Promote Tobacco Cessation Services and Reduce Tobacco Industry Influences. Jerry Speck, former Executive Director for the Idabel Chamber of Commerce, has accepted the position as director/coordinator for the new project. The full consortium will offer guidance to the director and help develop the strategic plan that best fits our part of Southeast Oklahoma. During the next few years our rural communities will see attitudes and feelings about tobacco use change. Schools, restaurants, city, county and government offices, workspaces and play spaces will become smoke free. Working directly with our schools and cities, this program will offer education programs about tobacco use and prevention and eventually cessation plans for those already addicted. If you want to become part of a life-changing team contact Jerry at 580-298-6624.



#### beans

Be creative about eating five servings each day. And remember, five is the recommended minimum - the more the better!

> Center for Disease Control and Prevention

(85%).

20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 Age

120 117 114 111 106 105 102 99

<sup>170</sup> 166 162 157 153 149 145 140 136 132

85%

60%

96

For more information call Wellness Ed. / REACH 2010

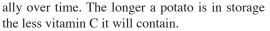


-800-349-7026 ext. 6044 or 6958

# Fresh from the garden – the potato

# **Nutritional Facts**

Potato is an excellent source of potassium and a good source of vitamin C; it also contains B6, copper, niacin, magnesium, folic acid, iron and pantothenic acid. The vitamin C contained in potatoes disappears gradu-



#### Selection

Choose firm, undamaged potatoes that show no sign of sprouting or green patches. A paper bag is preferable over plastic for storing potatoes because it allows the moisture to escape and protects them from the light. If plastic bags are used, they should have holes so that the potatoes can breathe.

Ready-cleaned potatoes have a shorter life, since washing removes their protective coating, making them more susceptible to bacteria.

The best potatoes for frying are those with moisture content, such as Russet and Idaho.

#### Storing

Potatoes will keep for about 2 months if stored in a cool, dark, well-ventilated place at temperatures ranging between 44° and 50° F.

When possible, avoid storing potatoes in plastic bags, which encourages growth of mold. If a plastic bag is used, poke several holes in the bag.

# Calories

79
109
87
86
315
539

Potato & Squash Soup

2 T olive oil

Target heart rates

1 c onion, finely chopped 3 c potatoes, peeled and diced 3 c zucchini, diced (or butternut squash) 5 c chicken stock

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> c green onion, sliced salt and pepper to taste

In large saucepan, heat oil; and add onions and cook until softened. Stir in potatoes and squash. Add chicken stock, bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 20-30 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir in green onions and season to taste

Nutritional Facts: 6 servings, calories 189, fat 6 g, percent of calories from fat 28%, cholesterol o mg, fiber 4 g, sodium 410.

For more information contact your county OSU Cooperative Extension Service office or http://www.okstate.edu. The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability or status as a veteran and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

# **Diabetes Wellness Center receives cardiovascular grant**

The Diabetes Wellness Center received a new grant to help reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease in diabetic patients. This is a five-year grant that will follow diabetic patients recruited into the project that are at risk for cardiovascular disease.

These patients will be seen more frequently in the clinic and will receive education in cardiovascular disease and how to prevent and decrease their risks of developing heart disease. Heart disease is the #1 reason why people die in this country. Diabetes is a serious problem for American Indians and is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

Through this grant we will also be able to provide education to interested community members about heart disease through community awareness projects. This first year is a planning year so watch for updates on what is happening.

From the desk of the Diabetes Community Educators ...

Diabetes continues to be a growing problem in the Choctaw Nation. As we start a new year, the Community Diabetes Educators wish to decrease that problem by assisting the Choctaw people to lower their blood sugar or decrease the risk of diabetes through healthy lifestyle changes. Diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death among Native Americans in Oklahoma. Small lifestyle changes make a huge difference in the blood sugar level and lower the risk of diabetes in people with a family history of diabetes. Diabetes is preventable and people at risk are encouraged to make lifestyle changes now.

Some risk factors include:

- a family history of diabetes
- if you are over 30 years of age
- if you are overweight
- if you are inactive
- if you are of American Indian, Alaska Native,
- African American or Hispanic race
- if you had a baby that weighed over 9 pounds at birth

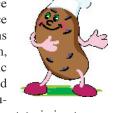
Signs and symptoms of diabetes are:

- always tired • frequent urination
- blurred vision · always thirsty
- wounds that are slow to heal • unusual weight loss

Diabetes touches almost every part of our lives and can cause many health problems. Diabetes can cause harm to your eyes, kidneys, heart and nerves. Many of these problems can be prevented by increasing your physical activity and making small changes in your eating habits. The Diabetes Wellness Center has five employees who are available to help you. We offer self-management classes in the clinics and also group classes in the community. What are you waiting for? Make an appointment with the Community Diabetes Educator in your area TODAY.

- Lee Ann Roberts, RN, CDE, Community Educator, McAlester Clinic.
- Annette Choate, RN, CDE, Community Educator, Broken Bow Clinic.
- Nancy Clark, RN, E, Community Educator, Poteau Clinic.
- Bernice Williams, RN, Community Educator, Hugo Clinic.

- Raina Spears, Dietitian, is in the McAlester and Stigler clinics and the Diabetes Wellness Center in Talihina.



# To the youth of the Nation ...

# Violence in our society today

#### By Brittany Jackson Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

In the world today we see acts of violence everywhere, in our communities, in schools, on our television, in other countries, and in many homes in America. What is violence? What are the effects of an attack or assault? Where does it happen? Why does it happen? And how can violence be stopped? Violence is not only physical assault. It is any action that is meant to make others feel hurt, scared or humiliated. The effects of a violent encounter may vary, the victim may feel some of the following things: Fear for their safety, guilt or shame for the attack, being nervous, anxious, and/ or jumpy. Other effects may be anger, and making excuses for or playing down the assault. The attacker in the situation may feel and experience the following: Loss of friends, loss of respect, and trust within relationships, an assault or other criminal charge, depression, and some attackers feel that the victim deserved what happened to them. Most violence happens in the homes of people we know. The media often shows stories of people being murdered, raped, or beaten, which can and does occur. Some movies that are shown on television and rented show bombing, killing, fighting, and other violent situations as well. Violence or abuse can be a behavior used to get power over people, and/or to look more powerful in other people's eyes. It can be an inappropriate expression of anger. Other reasons for violent behavior may be a person's age, ability, or nationality.

#### *In the nation ...*

• Over one half of sixth- to twelfth-graders report being involved in at least one violent act a year.

• By the time the average child graduates from

middle or high school, he or she will have viewed 26,000 homicides and suicides on television.

· One survey found that one out of ten middle school and high school students approve of a husband hitting his wife if she will not listen to reason. • More than 1.2 million elementary-aged latch-

key kids have access to guns in the home.

#### In Oklahoma ...

• Nearly 26,000 juveniles are taken into police custody each year.

• Of the juveniles taken into custody, 72% are boys and 28% are girls.

• Each year over 4,000 children are taken into custody for running away from home.

• Two percent of juvenile offenses are for drugrelated crimes.

Violence can be stopped in a variety of ways. If a student is being bullied in school, that student can tell a teacher or another authority figure in school. If a person is in an abusive relationship and wants out of it, he or she can talk with a counselor or go to the police. There is no situation where violence is okay - take a stand against the violence in your life through strength, determination and courage.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I am thankful to be involved in a mentoring program along with three other students. The program is called Project Falumacheichi. The project was created by Claire Richards, a junior in high school in Oklahoma City. In this program, the mentors get to work with one second grade class and teach the children about how violence is not the answer and how to deal with situations involving violent behavior. The first thing we do when we enter the classroom is ask the class if they remember our names, then start our skit in the lesson plan. Afterward, we ask the class what the skit was about, then we have little activities for the class to do for fun. Our lessons last for about 45 minutes and after our time we tell the class when we will see them again in the following month. Areas involved are Hugo, Bennington, Atoka, Caddo, and



Bennington Head Start gathered the most pennies of all the Choctaw Nation Head Starts -\$284.89. Pictured are, standing, Teachers Aid Brandy Shults, Devin Emert, Joshua Taylor, Kate Norrid, Evan Hewitt, Trent Haislip, Teachers Aid Belinda Owens and Disabilities Aid Tiffany Kline, and knealing, Angie Cross and son, Jacob Cross, Elizabeth Garza, Timothy Brese, Samantha Owens, Jesse Martin and Center Supervisor June Dobbins. Class members not pictured include Ashton and Darren Ashby, Charlotte, Ashton Andrews and Baylee Miller.

# Pennies from the heart

Children from the Choctaw Nation's 14 Head Starts wholeheartedly put their jars of pennies together and came up with \$1,057.17 to help victims of the recent Asian tsunami. Think about it - that's one hundred five thousand seven hundred seventeen pennies in a week's time.

Bennington's class of 15 threeto five-year-olds turned in the largest amount - \$284.89.

"I explained to the students that this is a way we can help since we couldn't go over there," said Center Supervisor June Dobbins. While explaining the definition of tsunami, June provided visual aids for the kids including pictures off the Internet showing the devastation and one of a Marine helping victims.

Angie Cross said her son, Jacob, went to Bokchito and collected money from local businesses, from his grandparents and relatives.

"The first thing he did when he got home that day was empty his piggy bank," Angie said.

Kate Norrid was happy to explain why she collected the pennies. "All the people got sick and

# **Choctaw Nation sends** \$210,000 to tsunami aid

A week of fundraising by the Choctaw Nation was a huge success, doubling the goal of \$100,000 set by the tribe to aid in tsunami relief. Chief Gregory E. Pyle said he was extremely pleased with the dollar amount gathered from various events spearheaded by the tribe.

A combination of ticket sales to win a Ford Explorer, a special gaming night, fuel sales at Choctaw Travel Plazas, penny collections at tribal head start centers, silent auctions and donations from Durant Elementary schools put donations over the \$200,000 mark.

A total of \$210,000 has been sent to Save the Children, an organization that is successful in getting relief directly to victims in the hardest hit regions.

"We chose Save the Children to channel the donations because of their long-standing presence in the area which needs assistance the most, and because they show that 90 cents of every dollar goes directly to services," said Chief Pyle. "Many other humanitarian organizations are also doing a great job in the relief effort, and our choice of Save the Children in no way detracts from the exceptional work they are doing. I encourage anyone who can help the victims of the tsunami to donate to the charity they feel comfortable with.

"A huge Thank You goes out to everyone who participated," said Chief Pyle. "We appreciate all of the citizens

# **Project VIP:** Turning negatives into positives

In a culture where all we seem to hear about is sexually promiscuous teens, high teen pregnancy rates, and higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) there is a ray of hope. Project Virginity Is Possible (VIP) is seeing amazing results in attitudes among teens ages 13 to 17 to pursue a healthier lifestyle.

During the 2003-04 school year, Project VIP implemented its program in ten area schools. Through the help of school counselors, school-based social workers, youth pastors and volunteers, the program has been a huge success. According to local school data and the Oklahoma University Institute for Public Affairs Evaluation Division, Project VIP has impacted their youth in regard to the following statistics:

the Project VIP classes.

• 72% feel more comfortable talking to parents about sexual issues. • 91% agreed the instructors

knew "a great deal" or "some" about sexual abstinence materials.

• 90% of students enjoyed the abstinence classes.

• 85% indicated that the course provided them with information they did not know before taking the course.

• 48% said the Project VIP

rector stated, "I can only speak for myself but I always answer, 'Yes." I then proceed to tell them about a 15-year-old girl from one of the area schools, who, after class caught me in the hall and told me her story. She began by telling me that her mother had become pregnant at the age of 14 and that her older sister had gotten pregnant at age 17. She then told me that she had just begun to date, and the guy she was dating was pressuring her about having sex, but

# Wright City.

• 68% of the students showed an overall increase in strengthened abstinence values due to course helped change their minds to wait until marriage to have sex.

• In schools where Project VIP was taught last year we have seen a 72% decrease in teen pregnancy.

When people find out what Project VIP is doing, they often ask if the program staff believe what they are doing will make a difference? The program di-

that after being in Project VIP and participating with her class on achieving personal goals, she knew that having sex with him could jeopardize her most important goal(s). You see this 15-year-old girl had come from a family where no one had ever gone to college and her goal was to be the first. I go by the school every now and then to check to see how she is doing on achieving her goals.

"The last time I checked she had a 4.00 grade point average, taking honors classes, and is living a healthy abstinent lifestyle. She's going to make it! I believe if Project VIP can help just one teen achieve their goals, then yes we are making a difference ..." For more information, con-

tact Thomas R. Wall at the Pushmataha County Health Department, 580-298-6624 or e-mail at ThomasW@Health. State.OK.US.

were hurt so we sent them pennies. I put some screws in mine so they could fix something to live in.'

who made donations, and all of the business people who contributed items and money for the tsunami fund."

# Food allergies or just food fussiness?

Jenny has enjoyed her morning snack. But 30 minutes later, she's cranky, her eyes look swollen, and she's crying. Does Jenny have a food allergy, or is

she just being fussy? Food allergies are a reaction to food that isn't normal. The body's immune system gets confused. Within minutes (or in up to two hours) it triggers symptoms that may seem like an illness, including:

• Sneezing, runny nose, coughing, difficult breathing, wheezing (asthma)

• Itchy skin or eyes, rash,

swelling

• Nausea, diarrhea, gas, pain, cramps

Most allergic reactions are just uncomfortable. But a small percentage of people have severe reactions that can threaten their lives. Symptoms that seem like allergies may be other serious health problems, too. Find out.

*If you suspect a food allergy* - Have your child checked by your health care provider. That's the only way to know if your child really has a food allergy. If so, being under a doctor's care is essential!

Skip any urge to diagnose an allergy yourself

- If you take away a food, such as milk, your child might miss nutrients needed to grow and stay healthy.

Common food allergies

- For children: peanuts, milk, eggs, tree nuts such as pecans, almonds, cashews and walnuts, soy, and wheat.

- For adults: peanuts, tree nuts, fish, and shellfish (especially shrimp)

Courtesy Nibbles for Health 27 USDA, Food and Nutrition Service

F	OOD	DISTR	RIBUI	ΓΙΟΝ				The worke break
M A R	SUN	MON	TUE Stigler <b>1</b> 9-2 Poteau A-L 9-2	WED 2	THU Poteau <b>3</b> M-Z 9-2	FRI 4	5	Plea pick u canno you a the F 800-5 where
C H	6	Bethel <b>7</b> 9-10:30 Smithville 12-2	8	<b>9</b> Talihina 9-12	10	Broken <b>11</b> Bow 12-2 Idabel 9-11	12	AN nity C BE nity B BR Famil
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	DU ity Wa IDA Shopp Mc modit
2 0	20	21	22	23	24	25 Holiday	26	PO vestm SM Churc STI nity B
0 0 5	27	28 Closed Inventory	29 Closed Inventory	30 Closed Inventory	31 Closed Inventory	Warehou March 4 Marc	through	TA Club. Foc not d race, c ligion

e Food Distribution Program ers will take a 30-minute lunch from 11:30 to 12 noon.

ease bring boxes with you to up your commodities. If you ot pick up commodities when are scheduled, please notify Food Distribution Office at 522-6170 so they can tell you re you need to go to.

NTLERS: Choctaw Commu-Center, 306 S.W. "O" St.

ETHEL: Choctaw Commu-Building.

ROKEN BOW: Choctaw ly Investment Center.

URANT: Choctaw Commod-Varehouse, 100 Waldron Dr.

ABEL: Choctaw Village ping Center.

cALESTER: Choctaw Comty Warehouse, 1212 S. Main. **DTEAU:** Choctaw Family In-

nent Center. AITHVILLE: Big Lick

ch. TIGLER: Choctaw Commu-Building.

LIHINA: Boys & Girls

od Distribution Program does discriminate because of sex. color, age, political beliefs, ren, handicap or national origin.

# Please join the **Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma** in educating youth on "Cancer Prevention"

*Healthy Living = Longer Life* 

#### POSTER CONTEST/K-3rd GRADE CATEGORY \* 1st Place \$100 \*2nd Place \$50 \*3rd Place \$25

POSTER OR ESSAY CONTEST 4th - 12th GRADE \* 1st Place \$150 \*2nd Place \$75 \*3rd Place \$50 1st, 2nd, 3rd place prizes awarded in three categories: \* 4th-6th Grade \* 7th-9th Grade \*10th-12th Grade

# PRIZE FOR SCHOOLS WITH 1ST PLACE WINNERS

\* \$100 Cash Prize utilized for Cancer Prevention in School

#### - Contest Guidelines -

 Topic for Poster or Essay is "Cancer Prevention" •K-3rd Grade will participate in the Poster Contest Only •4th-12th Grade may participate in (one or both) Poster or Essay Contest •Contest is open to <u>all students</u> within the Choctaw Nation, grades K-12 •Poster should be 8 1/2" x 11" and may be designed with cravolas, markers, pencils, paint, etc. •Individual's name, address, phone number, school, and grade should appear on the back of the poster or essay. •Entry form will need to be submitted with poster or essay. •Items will need to be mailed with a postmark nolater than March 1, 2005, to the following address: Joyce Wells, Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles PO Box 882, Hugo, OK 74743 - 580-317-9335 -

Entries will be reviewed by the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board. Entries will be judged by April 1, 2005, with winners being contacted thereafter. Entries will become the property of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and may be reproduced for widespread public display/ distribution in the campaign of Cancer Prevention.

## CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
Phone	
Your School/Address	
School Contact	
School Phone	School Grade





Members of the Vawter family who shared family stories at a recent reunion include, front, Carolyn Olson, Altha Lee Murray, Dr. Patricia Vawter, Imogene Terrell, Linda Parrish, Janis Berger, and Dr. Marcia Guinn, and back, Dr. Jerry Parrish, David Fitzgerald and Darlene Gaskins.

# Vawters celebrate at reunion

Descendants of one of the first families of Bethany, Oklahoma, recently shared memories and renewed acquaintances at a reunion gathering of the Vawter family in Oklahoma City.

The occasion saluted Martha McCasson of Vawter, member of the Choctaw Nation, husband James Wesley Vawter and their children, Eula Collins, Eunice Black, Ethel Stow, Florence Fitzgerald, Alice Hatfield, Beatrice Shackleton, Albert Vawter, Elbert Vawter, Zona Beasley, Silas Vawter and Lillian Parrish.

James Wesley Vawter was one of the founders of Bethany, Oklahoma, and the educational institution now known as Southern Nazarene University.

Festivities included door prizes, sharing of memory books, pictures and stories, lots of laughter and a catered barbecue meal.

Ten first cousins spent time sharing memories of their grandparents, aunts and uncles with the younger relatives. A total of 78 relatives from seven states attended the event.

# Happy first birthday

Brylei Christine Thompson turned one year old on January 18. Happy birthday to our angel baby from Mommy, Daddy and family.

# Happy birthday, Markus

Happy 15th birthday, Markus, from Mom, Dad, and all your brothers, Mason, Matthew, Michal and Parker. Markus is a freshman at Merritt High School in Elk City, Oklahoma. He plays basketball and baseball for the Merritt Oilers. He also enjoys hunting with his uncle every chance he gets. Markus turned 15 on February 2.

His parents are Charles and Tisha Hust. Grandparents are Jerry and Vicky Justus of Elk City and Patti and Jack Atwood of Hodgen, Oklahoma.

## Happy birthday wishes

# Christmas baby turns five

Ambre Shae turned five years old on December 25, 2004. She is the daughter of Timmi Hobbs of Atoka, Oklahoma; granddaughter of Gary and Diane Taylor of Seneca, Missouri, and great-granddaughter of Adam Betsey of McAlester, Oklahoma. Happy birthday from Mom, Mamma, Pawpaw, Aunt Robbi, Steve, Dumpy, Uncle Jason and Doozie.

# Happy third birthday

Jacob Ryan "Jake" Jessie will turn three years old on February 19. He is the son of Faith Jessie of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Jacob would like to say "Happy birthday" to his Aunt Lynda Jessie on February 5 and cousins, Jennifer Jarvis on February 7, Cynthia Young on February 17, and Crystal Noah on February 22.

# Look who's turning seven

Brandyn Attocknie turns seven years old on February 21. His Grandma, Mandy and Grandpa wish him a wonderful and blessed birthday. Brandyn is the son of Joey and Virginia Attocknie. He is the great-great-grandson of original enrollee Ben Hampton.

## **Timothy turns ten**

Talia would like to wish her big brother, Timothy II, a happy birthday! He will turn ten years old on February 23. Timothy is the son of Timothy A. Miller and Debra L. (Watson) Miller of Cleburne, Texas.

## **Meara turns four**

Meara Noelle Johnson turned four years old on January 8 and was honored with a birthday party given by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P.J. Johnson, and her brother, Perry Joe. Happy birthday Meara!

# Corbyn is two

Corbyn Ward Draper, son of Damien Ward Draper and Brandy Draper, turned two on October 12, 2004. He celebrated his big day with a party, cake and ice cream at his home among family and friends. Corbyn's grandparents include Linda Draper of Oklahoma City and Phyllis and Roger Shatley of Paoli, Oklahoma. Corbyn is a great-great-grandson of original enrollee Emma Coleman.

#### Saige turns one

Saige Williams turned one on November 2, 2004. She is the daughter of Shawn and Martha Williams. Grandparents are Bill and Judy May of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Jerry and Wanda Williams of Antlers, Oklahoma, and Bob and Karon Clark of Atoka, Oklahoma. Saige is the great-granddaughter of Reed and the late Lizzie Williams and Gilbert and Patsy Rose, all of Atoka, and the great-greatgranddaughter of Winnie Lain of Atoka.













#### homa, to James "Jim" and Maisie (Tubbee) Sewell. Maisie was one of the original enrollees. Maisie

**Celebrating 80th** 

Inez (Sewell) Seifert celebrated

her 80th birthday on February 1.

Inez was born in Blanchard, Okla-

Tubbee's parents were Robert and Jennie (Amos) Tubbee of Mississippi. Inez attended Chilocco in 1941-42 where she was chosen to be their Indian Princess. Inez has two daughters, Phyllis

Been of Oklahoma City and Marsha and her husband, Gene Miller, of Newcastle, Oklahoma; one granddaughter, Jennifer, and her husband, Scott Turner, of Bethany, Oklahoma; and one great-granddaughter, Julia Turner. Happy birthday!!!

# Happy 89th birthday

Happy 89th birthday wishes to Frank Williams of Peoria, Arizona, from his family in Alaska, California, Nevada, Florida and Arizona. Frank was born January 21, 1916, in Centrahoma, Oklahoma, to Silas and Ella (Tindal) Williams. Last year he was able to travel to Oklahoma with his

son, Chuckie, to visit the home place. He had a great visit with Chief Pyle at his office. He was very proud that Chief Pyle made time to visit with him. We, his children, are happy to call this man our Dad. He has taught great things to each of us and his many grandchildren. Happy birthday, Daddy!

# Happy 70th birthday

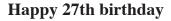
Bobby Clark Holder turned 70 on January 4. After 44 years in the transportation business, Bobby has been retired seven years. He and his wife, Peggy, are raising their ten-year-old granddaughter, Kristianna, which is a full-time job. Happy birthday, and many more!

# 62 years young

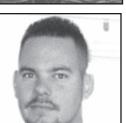
Rufus T. Amos Sr. turned 62 years young on January 31. Happy birthday to someone special - my big brother and my best friend, from Sis.

# **Remember this picture?**

Being 52 years young isn't so bad. Happy birthday to Anthony T. Amos on January 25 from Sis.



Happy birthday Joey! Joe is an employee of T.U. Electric in Dallas, Texas. He turned 27 years old on February 2. He is a superb father, son, husband and friend. We wish you the best this world has to of-









Chance Ryon Wafford celebrated his fifth birthday on November 22, 2004. Emma Rae Wafford celebrated her third birthday on January 15. They celebrated with family and friends. Proud parents are Scott and Katrina Wafford of Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Mike and JoAnn Scantlen of Muskogee, Oklahoma, Martha Shipley of Ft. Gibson, and Dan Wafford of Muskogee.

# **Birthday girl**

Happy birthday to Marietta Frances Hamill who turned two on January 16. She celebrated her birthday with the help of her new baby sister, Julianna. Marietta's Sesame Street friends joined family and friends at the birthday party. She is the daughter of Marion "Junior" and Kelly Hamill of Norman, Oklahoma. Her



grandparents are Marion Sr. and the late Ethel (Thompson) Hamill of Grant, Oklahoma, and Max and Ivanell Meek of Norman.

# Samuel turns four

Happy birthday to Samuel Justin Poulis who turns four years old on February 26, Celebrating with Sam will be his parents, Toney and Jane Poulis; brother, Jack; sister, Nicole, and grandparents, Charles and Wanda Poulis and John and Doris Derse. Sam's Grandma Wanda Faye Bohannon is a daughter of Dennis Bohannon and Min-

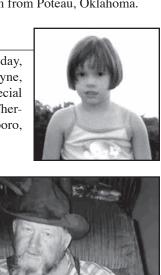
nie Woolbright of the Choctaw Nation from Poteau, Oklahoma.

# Look who's seven

Misti turned seven on the lucky day, January 13. Her brother, Kerry Wayne, would like to wish her a very special birthday. Misti is the daughter of Therman Green and Kim Billy of Whitesboro, Oklahoma.

# Happy 55th

Happy 55th birthday to Hardy Ray Labor on January 22 from your family in Mc-Curtain, Oklahoma - Tammie, Tyler, B.J., April and his grandson Tater, whom he is holding.



# Little boy is growing up

Mason Elliott of Red Oak, Oklahoma, will be three years old on March 29, 2005. He loves to fish on PaPaw's boat, shop with Nanny, ride four-wheelers with Dad and annoy his little sister. Mason is very active and keeps Mommy on her toes. His parents are Courtney and Lahena Elliott and he has one sister, Kelsi.

# Happy first birthday

Her family would like to wish Kelsi LaRae Elliott a very happy first birthday. Kelsi was born January 9, 2004, at Talihina, Oklahoma. She is the granddaughter of Kevin and Loretta Watkins of Red Oak, Oklahoma, Betise Hunter of Hugo, Oklahoma, and the late Troy Chumley of Hugo. Her parents are Courtney and Lahona Elliott of Red Oak and she has a big brother, Mason.

## **Preston turns nine**

Gavin would like to wish his big brother, Preston, a very happy birthday! Preston turned nine years old on January 18. He is the son of Bill and Tanya Ashcraft of Boswell, Oklahoma, and Jeff Egan of Soper, Oklahoma. Preston is the grandson of Jackie and Vicky Allen of Boswell and Earl and Sue Egan of Soper.

## Whitney turns four

Larry Wayne Anderson of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, wishes his daughter, Whitney Denise Anderson, a happy fourth birthday on January 18.

# Happy Valentine's Day

Happy Valentine's Day to Nema Retha Hokett-Mundt from your daughter-in-law, Kim, for being one of the sweetest people she knows. Nema is always helping others, a person who believes that kindness always wins. She is a huge blessing to her family and friends.



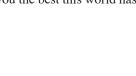








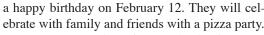




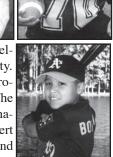
# Happy birthday

fer.

Happy 13th birthday to twins Trent and Brent Bohanon on February 10 and to their nephew, Kevin Bohanon, on his ninth birthday on February 4. They would also like to wish Jalon Bohanon



Trent, Brent and Kevin attend school at Broken Bow, Oklahoma, and love to play sports. The twins are the sons of Kenneth and Eunice Bohanon of Broken Bow and the grandsons of Robert and Melissea Bohanan of Bethel, Oklahoma, and the late Anthony "Cubby" Bohanon and Rena Bohanon of Broken Bow.



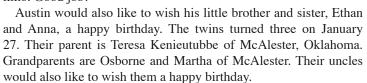
Kevin is the son of Kelly Bohanon of Oklahoma City and the grandson of Kenneth and Eunice Bohanon of Broken Bow and the late Rhonda Peters of Oklahoma City.

# Happy birthday

Aunt Dawn would like to wish her two nieces, Sydney Owens and Twanna Kemp, a very happy birthday. Sydney turned nine years old on January 3 and Twanna turned eight on Fenruary 6.

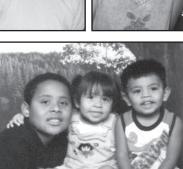
# Congratulations

Ethan and Anna Kenieutubbe would like to congratulate their big brother, Austin, for making Student of the Month for October at Edmond Dayle School, the Principle's Honor Roll and for selling 50 or more items for a fund-raiser. His prize was a dinner and ride in a limo. Good job!

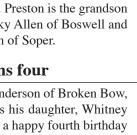


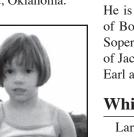
# **BISHINIK** deadline

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.











# **Former Choctaw Princess** practicing Indian law

Katosha (Belvin) Nakai who served as Choctaw Princess in 1990 has joined one of the Southwest's premier law firms. After graduating from Broken Bow High School in 1991, Katosha earned her bachelor's degree from Oklahoma City University. She remained in Oklahoma



City for a time working at KFOR-TV as an update anchor and associate producer. Next, she moved to Minneapolis/St. Paul, where she worked at KSTP-TV as a reporter and producer and then later as communications director for the Department of Education and eventually as a member of the governor's transition team. Katosha accepted a position with Denver-based American Indian College Fund in 1999, serving as public education and communications director for an organization dedicated to the educational goals of Indian students, attending tribal colleges and universities.

Moving to Arizona with husband Errol Nakai, Katosha applied and was accepted to the Arizona State University College of Law, Tempe, home of one of the nation's top Indian law programs. She won various awards for her oral and written advocacy as well as her academics. She tirelessly advocated the interests of Indian law students as public relations director for the National Native American Law Students Association. Katosha graduated in 2003 with honors and accepted one of the mose competitive one-year judicial clerkships in the nation with the Honorable Mary M. Schroeder, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. On July 8, 2004, during the last few weeks of her clerkship, Katosha gave birth to baby Ellisia Karynn Nakai.Last fall, Katosha joined Lewis and Roca LLP as an associate in its government relations and regulatory practice group. In addition to lobbying activities in Arizona, Katosha works on Indian and gaming law matters throughout the country; she handles regulatory, legislative and litigation issues. Lewis and Roca is one of the Southwest's leading law firms, providing legal counsel for over 50 years through its offices in Phoenix, Tucson, Las Vegas and Albuquerque.

# **Riley receives national honor**

Lyndsi R. Riley of Orangevale, California, and a student at Casa Roble High School, has recently been selected for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars. The society invites only those students who have superior academic achievement and are among the top scholars in the nation.

Lyndsi is a three-time Head Princess for the Okla Chahta Clan. She is currently a junior in high school. In addition to being a top student enrolled in honors classes, Lyndsi is an athlete, an artist and enjoys playing guitar, surfing, water sports and volunteering in the community. Last summer she also spent some time touring Europe with her High School Honors World History class.

Among her accomplishments are being elected Student Government Member, currently serving as Elections Commissioner; Scholar Athlete Award, Student of the Year; Athletic Honors Student; Presidential Physical Fitness Award, National Level; Varsity Swim Team member; Varsity Cross Country Team Captain; 2004 Cross Country MVP, and assistant to the Lifeguard and Aquatic Center Water Sports Instructor.



# *Riley discovers*

Choctaw cousin Among several thousand students in the large Casa Roble High School, Lyndsi Riley discovers another Choctaw - one who shares her own heritage. A common family name of Ishcomer led the students to call their respective grandparents and indeed, their grandparents are first cousins, making them third cousins. They are both very happy to have found each other and are now great friends.

# High school students sought for Black Mesa Ecological Academy to be held in June

The Oklahoma Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) is seeking high school students to participate in the Black Mesa Ecological Academy. The Academy will be held June 19-24 at Kenton, Oklahoma, a cooperative effort among Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Students will explore the rangelands of the five-state area. The five-day Academy provides the opportunity to learn more about range and wildlife management, conservation planning, plant identification, conflict resolution and leadership development. All these subjects are integrated using new technology such as global positioning systems and geographic information systems.

The course will be taught by members of the Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas Sections of the Society for Range Management along with personnel from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and enactors, tourism specialists, and others with expertise in rangeland related issues.

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

Applications for the Academy can be obtained at the local Conservation District or NRCS office located in the county you live in, or from the BMEA link on the Oklahoma SRM website, http://www. oksrm.okstate.edu/. Applications must be postmarked by June 1, 2005.

All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# **Headlands Indian Health Careers Program accepting applications**

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center is now accepting applications for its 2005 Headlands Indian Health Careers Program, to be held June 5 through July 30, 2005, on the OU Norman campus.

American Indian high school seniors and first-year college students who are interested in pursuing a career in the health professions are encouraged to apply for this intense eight-week enrichment program offering mini-block courses in calculus, chemistry, physics and biology. These courses are designed to increase the students' knowledge and prepare them for the required college-level math and science coursework in pre-health programs.

Students will gain experience in the laboratory, strengthen their communication and writing skills, and attend interactive presentations at the OU Health Sciences Center colleges of Public Health, Allied Health, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Nursing. Field excursions to health clinics and hospitals also are included.

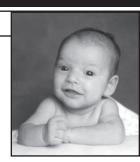
Travel, lodging and meal expenses will be for each student accepted into the program.

Applications for the Headlands programs can be found at www. headlands.ouhsc.edu or call (405) 271-2250. Application deadline is March 15.

Nursery News

# **Ruby Jane Phillips**

Ruby Jane Phillips was born at 3:52 p.m. on July 17, 2004, at Hemet Valley Hospital in Hemet, California. She is the daughter of proud mom, Melissa Lee Phillips of Hemet. Ruby was 19.5 inches long and weighed 7 pounds 7.7 ounces. She is pictured here at six weeks old. Ruby is the first grandchild of adoring grand-



mother, Marie (Enz) Jones of Hemet. She is the great-granddaughter of Vernon and Susan Phillips of Hemet, Barbara Enz of Banning, California, and William "Bill" and Deborah Enz of Paradise, California, and the great-great-granddaughter of Theresa Reppmann of Banning and the late Eli and Mary (Bob) Phillips, original Choctaw enrollees from Meridian, Mississippi. Her loving Aunt Candace and Uncle Eddie Hubbard are of Chico, California.

# **Carolina Morgan Splawn**

Carolina Morgan Splawn was born at 6:55 p.m. December 6, 2004, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma. She weighed 7 pounds 7.8 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long. Proud parents are Troy and Consuelo Splawn of Antlers, Oklahoma.



Grandparents are Rhonda (Peters) Juarez of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Judy Wilson and the late David Splawn. Great-grandparents are Lee Roy Ward and the late Alice Ward of Antlers and Oma Splawn and the late Raymond Splawn of Antlers.

## **Morgan Jean Rieves**

Morgan Jean Rieves was born September 3, 2004, at Norman, Oklahoma, weighing 7 pounds 8 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. She is the daughter of Zach and Tracy Rieves of Norman. Morgan is the granddaughter of William and Valdene Willis of Norman.



She is the great-granddaughter of Wanda Alexander of Ada, Oklahoma, and the late Jim Alexander and Eugene and Gloria Willis of Pittsburg, Oklahoma.

# Abraham Kamal Al-Khalili

Kamal and Heather Al-Khalili would like to announce the birth of their son, Abraham Kamal Al-Khalili. Abraham was born December 5, 2004, at Fair Oaks Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia. He is the grandson of Gretchen Canfield and Tommy Shook.

# **Mason Grant Murillo**

Four-year-old Noah Ray Murillo proudly announces the birth of his brother, Mason Grant Murillo. Mason was born December 12, 2004, weighing 7 pounds 12 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. Great-grandma is Siney Noah of Miami, Oklahoma. Grandma is Vedis (Noah) Murillo of



Phoenix, Arizona. Uncle Walter and Aunt Jackie Murillo also reside in Phoenix. Proud parents are Manny and Cindi Murillo of La Mi

# Congratulations

The Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Justin Paul Schulze, a student at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, on his graduation in December 2004. A broadcasting major, Justin earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication-Media Studies. He is employed with KTEN-TV.



# Mayes earns pharmacotherapy specialist degree

Jill Mayes, PharmD, MBA, recently earned the designation of Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) from the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties. This is pharmacy's highest credential in the practice of pharmacotherapy. Through board certification, pharmacotherapy specialists demonstrate a defined level of education and training, as well as mastery of the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the public's demand for expert pharmaceutical care.

Dr. Mayes met all the eligibility requirements for certification, including advanced training and work experience in pharmacotherapy and passing the 200-item specialty certification examination.

# \$5,000 scholarship available

to member of Choctaw Nation Three Folsom Scholarships are presented annually to graduating seniors - one to a member of the Choctaw Nation; one to a resident

of the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area, and one to a resident of southeastern Kentucky, both locations where Datatrac Information Services, Inc., has offices. The scholarships were established in recognition of Datatrac Chief Executive Officer Judy Burleson's Choctaw ancestor, David Folsom.

"The criteria are demanding for these scholarships," Burleson points out. "A scholarship committee looks at potential for success, at personal goals, and at the students' commitment to their communities."

Submission deadline is April 15, 2005. Decisions on the scholarship award recipients will be made May 20, 2005. For more information or a list of criteria, please contact Kirstin Mercer, Datatrac Information Services, Inc., 703-817-9700, fax 703-817-9791, or email k.mercer@datatrac-dc.com.

Children of Datatrac employees, its teaming partner's employees, and the Choctaw Tribal Council Members are not eligible to par-

SAT 3 Atoka 2 4 5 Stigler 1 oy appt only 10 am-noon Idabel 10 am-2 pm McAlester Coalgate R 10 am-2 pm 10:30-1:30 6 12 7 10 11 8 9 Talihina Durant Н l0 am-2 pm 10 am-12 noon 13 17 19 14 15 16 18 Crowder Wilburton Broken Bow Antlers and 10:30 am 10am-2 pm y appt only McAlester 2 pm oy appt only 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 Durant Bethel oy appt only by appt only 2 0 27 30 31 28 29 0 Wright City by appt

A Vocational Rehabilitation 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 and at the Rubin White Clinic in Poteau.

rada, California.

# **Daniel Drew Southard**

Daniel Drew Southard was born November 6, 2004, weighing 7 pounds 3 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches long.

# **Happy anniversary!**

Jim and Arline (Hickman) Johnson celebrated their 40th anniversary on November 25, 2004. They were married in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on November 25, 1964.

Arline is the daughter of the late Arlie and Dorothy (Pugh) Hickman and the granddaugh-



ter of the late Austin and Mary Hickman and A.P. and Ada Pugh. Austin Hickman and Ada (Wilson) Pugh were original Choctaw enrollees. Jim is the son of the late James Johnson and Norma Jeanne (VanMeter) Johnson.

Jim and Arline met in 1962 in Tulsa, where they still reside. They have three children, Bill and Renee Davidson of Claremore, Bob and Kristy Johnson of Sapulpa, and Amy Johnson of Tulsa, and six grandchildren, Rachel, Nathan, Hailee, Bethany, Lora and Michael.

# **Happy anniversary!**

Phillip and Bonnie Manke of Stillwater, Oklahoma, celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on February 10. The couple has four children and eleven grandchildren.

Phillip is the son of newborn

enrollee, the late Lois Ann (Bowman) Manke of Spiro, Oklahoma, and the grandson of original enrollees, the late Edward S. and Gertrude (Moore) Bowman. Grandchildren Jacob Wayne, James Arthur, and Johnathan Phillip Jones of Morrison, Oklahoma, wish their Papaw and Grandma a happy anniversary!

## **Congratulations**

Erik Thomas Erickson graduated in a December ceremony from the University of Central Florida, Orlando, with a Bachelor's of Arts and Sciences degree with minors in French and Computer Science. Erik is the great-grandson of original Choctaw enrollee Pleasant P. McBride, formerly of Vinita, Indian Territory.







# VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

# ticipate.

# **Teacher achieves National Certification**

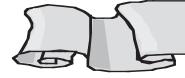
Sherilynn Admire of Choctaw, Oklahoma, has earned her profession's top honor by achieving National Board Certification in 2004.

The teachers who earn this distinction represent the gold standard in teaching and are among the most effective teachers in our nation's classrooms today.

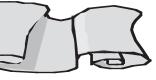
Working with special needs children at Soldier Creek Elementary in Midwest City, Oklahoma, Admire has been a teacher for 26 years and holds master's and bachelor's degrees in Special Education.

# Michael Ruth graduates from Southwestern

Michael Ruth of Fairview, Oklahoma, was among 279 students from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Weatherford, earning degrees after the Fall 2004 semester. He earned a BBA in Management. Congratulations.



# **OBITUARIES**



# John Dennis Dodson Sr.

John Dennis Dodson Sr., 60, passed away December 9, 2004, in the University of New Mexico Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was born August 9, 1944, in Sebastopool, California, to Elvin Clifton Sr. and Willie Leona Butler Dodson.

John grew up in Rio Dell, California, graduating high school in Fortuna, California. He continued trade schools learning auto body repair, appliance repair and photography,



which was his passion. He loved taking photos of scenery, old barns and windmills.

He and his wife of two years had moved from Sacramento, California, to Mountain Aire, New Mexico, in late 2003. They dearly loved it there and had made many wonderful friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Wanda Sue St. Clair; grandmother, Lizzie Beth (Jones) Butler of Durant, Oklahoma, and grandfather, John F. Butler. Lizzie Beth's father, Zack Jones of Durant, was an original enrollee in the Choctaw Nation and Zack's father was Captain Reason Jones, Confederate Army for Texas.

Survivors include seven children, John Dennis Jr., Delona, Dennis and Darla, all of Eureka, California, Johnny and Wendy of Arizona and Brian of Mountain Aire: eight grandchildren: sisters. Betty Buttram, Willie Ethel Schuler of Bayside, California, and Letha Teague and Patsy Allen, both of Ukiah, California; and a brother, Elvin Clifton Dodson Jr. of Garberville, California.

John was so proud, as we all are of our Choctaw heritage and when Chief Pyle came to the hospital to see John on November 3, 2004, John was overcome with joy. Thank you Chief Pyle and may God bless you! It was our brother's greatest wish to meet our Chief.

# Larry Dean Thompson

Larry Dean Thompson, 49, passed away December 7, 2004, at the Overland Park Regional Hospital. He was born October 10, 1955, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Henry and Dorothy (Robinson) Thompson.

The family moved to Edwards Air Force Base, California, in 1956. In 1963, the family settled in the next town, Rosamond. Larry attended the elementary and high school, graduating in 1974. When he was growing up, he participated in little league baseball and high school basketball and football. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the Marines for four years. After his honorable discharge, he furthered his higher education at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, majoring in Business Education. He reeived the 2003 Haskell Alumni of the Year Award. Since 1986, he was employed with the Department of Agriculture. In 1987, he married Danielle and was a very devoted husband and a caring father to their children, Amy and Nathan. He took an active part in his son's involvement in sports by coaching in little league baseball and football. As a devoted father, son and brother, he came out numerous times during the last few years of his mother's precious life to bring his children to see her after she was diagnosed with colon cancer. His surprise visits always lifted his mother's spirit. His unselfish acts and supportive telephone calls helped his sister, Deborah, remain strong during these last few years. He was proud of his Choctaw-Creek heritage. His wife, Danielle, and he researched the Robinson genealogy extensively and was able to go as far back as before the Trail of Tears to find the Robinson ancestry. He was active in the Kansas City, Missouri, Heart of America Indian Center and also served as chairman of the board. He was a member of the Federal Executive Board representing Native American Executives.



# **Dorothy Mae** (Robinson) Thompson

Dorothy Mae (Robinson) Thompson, 78, passed away September 25, 2004, at her home in Rosamond, California. She was born May 2, 1926, in Watson, Oklahoma, to Lyman and Lylie (Colbert) Robinson, both original enrollees of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

She attended Wheelock Academy. She married Henry

# Eza Maye Adams

Eza Maye Adams, 81, of Hugo, Oklahoma, passed away December 19, 2004, at her home. She was born March 31, 1923, in Hugo, the daughter of John Leavy and Susan Florence (Everidge) McFarland.

She attended Goodland School through the tenth grade. She was also a welder in the Richmond, California, shipyards during World War II.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Calvin B. Cowger on March 10, 2001; one sister, Mattie Palmer, and two brothers, Edward W. "Mac" McFarland and Calvin Clark McFarland.

Survivors include her husband, Benny Adams of Hugo; one son, Edward M. Cowger of Corning, California; one daughter, Susan L. Christensen of Fairfield, California; one brother, David H. Hightower of Corning; one sister, Marie McClain of Hugo; seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and a host of family and friends.

# **Flodell Sellers**

Flodell Sellers, 67, passed away December 19, 2004, at the St. Joseph Hospital in Augusta, Georgia. She was born August 7, 1937, in Bennington, Oklahoma, to Robert David and Ada (Wesley) Frazier.

She was a former resident of Bennington. A loving and strongwilled woman, she loved life and enjoyed being around her family, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She enjoyed the laughter and feeling of comfort her family gave her. She was a very special mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother to all of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, daughters-in-law and sons-in-law. She also enjoyed being around her many friends.

Flodell was truly loved by many and will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her son, Hansel Veston Sellers Jr. Survivors include sons, Charles Wayne Sellers of Bennington, Oklahoma, Ricky Dale Sellers of Grovetown, Georgia, and Christopher Shane Sellers of Dilley, Texas; daughters, Carol Ann Rivetti of Newtown, Pennsylvania, Margaret Sue Flores of Las Vegas, Nevada, Jonell Hernandez of Houston, Texas, and Flora Darlene Eppinger of Phoenix, Arizona; 26 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

# **Melvin Joe Ivins**

Graveside services were held December 14, 2004, for Melvin Joe Ivins, 77, of Lone Grove, Oklahoma. Mr. Ivins was born September 28, 1927, in Rubottom, Oklahoma.

He was a farmer and served in the U.S. Army in occupied Japan following World War II. He was of the Holiness faith. Mr. Ivins was very proud of his Choctaw heritage. He and his wife, Rita, were active in the local Chickasaw community.

Survivors include his wife, Rita Ivins, of the home; two brothers, Otis Ivins of Jimtown, Oklahoma, and G.W. "Dub" Ivins of Azel, Texas, and two sisters, Helen Betts of Lindale, Texas, and Hattie Welch of Marietta, Oklahoma.

# Luster "Mac" McMinn

Luster "Mac" McMinn passed away peacefully with his family at his side on August 28, 2004, at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital in Palo Alto, California. Luster was born November 1, 1919, in Ozark, Arkansas, to Charles and Lillian McMinn.

He was a man devoted to his country having served one tour of duty during World War II and two tours each during the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War. In total, Luster spent 30 years in the U.S. Navy as an aircraft mechanic, retiring in 1972 as a Senior Chief Petty Officer. Following his retirement he worked at Moffett Field as a supervisor in the Maintenance Recreational Services. Luster was a member of the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 101, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mission Post 3982 and the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 11. He was an avid fisherman, gardener and the most wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend.

# Margaret (Griggs) Freeny

Margaret (Griggs) Freeny, 106, Caddo, Oklahoma, passed away December 28, 2004, at Durant, Oklahoma. She was born November 28, 1898, at Stuart in Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. Maggie and her late husband, Homer Michael Freeny, were both born on the same date and year and were married 20 years to the day later. Both were members of the Choctaw tribe and had great pride in their Indian history and heritage.



As a mother and homemaker, she had four children, Keotah, who passed away in 1990; Robert Clay, who passed away in 2004; Ida Price, who passed away in 2004, and Homer Michael Freeny of Bakersfield, California. She has 14 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

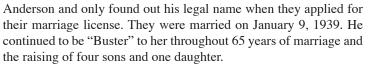
In her 106 years, Maggie had seen changes from arrows to atoms; from horse-drawn carriages to computers; from traveling on horseback with her children to traveling on Boeing 747s. Maggie has celebrated all aspects of life from the joy of birth as a mother, a midwife in early statehood, and in death as a pallbearer at a Caddo man's funeral. A very important part of her early life was as a highly respected teacher in rural schools around Caddo. She inspired young people to set higher goals and as such her legacy will live forever.

Maggie was truly a remarkable woman as attested to by her many achievements in life and supported by commentary from her many students, peers, friends and beloved family members. Maggie lived in Caddo and was a lifelong member of the Caddo Methodist Church. She loved raising kids and a garden. She enjoyed painting and writing poems.

# **Kirby Lee Anderson**

Kirby Lee Anderson, 91, passed away December 9, 2004, at his home in Brookings, Oregon. He was born October 16, 1913, in Stratford, Oklahoma, to Isaac and Dora Mae (Mole) Anderson.

He met Vera Ozell Lewis in September 1938 in Button Willow, California. Although they met in California, they were actually born only five miles apart in Oklahoma. She knew him as "Buster"



Kirby was proud of his Choctaw heritage and passed it on to be cherished by all his descendants. He graduated from Haskell Indian High School in Lawrence, Kansas, and Modesto Junior College, Modesto, California. Several of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren are benefiting from Choctaw Nation scholarships to complete their college educations. He was proficient in Indian beadwork and all of his family is honored to wear and display his work.

He was an electrician and worked for five years at Lockheed Aircraft Corp. and 24 years with the Modesto Irrigation District where he retired.

Kirby was a member of the First Baptist Community Church in Brookings.

He was a talented baseball player in his younger years and played for various minor league baseball teams. He applied his knowledge and skills to the coaching field as his sons grew up. He was a coach for 38 years and coached his four sons throughout their years of playing baseball. He taught hundreds of boys to play ball and to practice good sportsmanship on and off the field. He started Little League and Babe Ruth programs in Hughson, California. There were times when he would load up the entire team for out of town games so they could all be there to play. When the family moved to Modesto he started the Hart-Ranson Little League Program, serving as president of that program for many years.



He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 17 years, Danielle, in 2003; his father in 1990 and his mother in 2004.

Survivors include three sons, Nathan, of the home, Nokoma of Ohio and Larry Jr. of Texas; two daughters, Amy Thompson of Independence, Missouri, and Nina Begay (Mike) of Crown Point, New Mexico; two sisters, Deborah Thompson of Rosamond, California, and Donna Jones (Eli) of Perris, California; three brothers, Eugene of Rosamond, Robert of Lawrence and Henry Jr. (Fran) of Rosamond; five grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Larry accomplished so much in his short-lived life and did it with all of his heart, soul and spirit. He will be missed immensely by all who knew and loved him.

Thompson in 1948 and lived in Midwest City, Oklahoma. Henry served his country during World War II in the Army, 45th Infantry Division a/k/a "Thunderbirds." In 1956, they moved four young sons and one daughter by car to Edwards Air Force Base, California. In 1957, another daughter was born to complete the family. In 1963, they settled in the next town, Rosamond. Dorothy was a dedicated and honorable wife and mother to her family.

She enjoyed working in her garden and growing flowers. She loved cooking for her family and friends. She loved the Lord and we have the assurance that she is in Heaven. She enjoyed meeting Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey at the California Choctaw Gathering in 2003. She enjoyed listening to Choctaw Hymns.

She was preceded in death by her parents; devoted husband of 56 years, Henry, on May 27, 1990; one half-sister, Catherine Bordeaux; one sister, Helen Sue Gover; and one half-brother, Milton Robinson.

Survivors include two daughters, Deborah Thompson of the home; Donna Jones (Eli) of Perris, California; four sons, Larry of Kansas City, Missouri, Eugene of the home, Robert of Lawrence, Kansas, and Henry Jr. (Fran) of Rosamond; five sisters, Caroline Belt of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, Lucille Vargas (Tony) of San Bernardino, California, Mary Jane Bacon of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Louise Wilkerson (Tom) and Orene Peevy (Ron) of Broken Bow, Oklahoma; one brother, Earl Robinson of Olathe, Kansas; 14 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and dear friends.

Precious memories are in our hearts of Dorothy's unselfish love for her family and friends. She gave from her heart, soul and spirit. She will be missed immensely by all who knew and loved her.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Lillian. Survivors include his beloved wife of 54 years, Juanita; daughter, Pamela Hammond and her husband, Clyde; granddaughters, Heather Nicole and Ashley Christina; sisters, Ruby, Evelyn, Vivian, Hazel and Charlene, and numerous nieces and nephews.

# **Delvin D. McDonald**

Delvin D. McDonald passed away December 30, 2004, in Arroya Grande, California. He was born in 1932 in Maricopa, California, to LeRoy and Anna-Belle McDonald.

The family moved to Fellows, California, that same year where Delvin and his siblings attended primary school, then on to Taft Union High. Delvin graduated from there in 1950. After high school, Delvin was in the U.S. Army and spent time in Japan during the Korean conflict.

Delvin, who was a member of the Choctaw Nation along with his mother, found much pleasure in attending the tribal festivals when held locally. He was a real cowboy and spent many hours on his farm in Bakersfield, California. He had lived and worked in Bakersfield for many years.

Delvin and his wife, Lynn, had moved from Bakersfield to Oceano, California, a few years ago and loved living near the beach. He will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Katie Vaughn, and brother, Hester "Hash" McDonald.

Survivors include two sons, Doug of Hood River, Washington, and Robert of Bakersfield, and three stepsons, Jamie, David, and Chris, five boys who gave Delvin and Lynn several grandchildren who also live in the area; a sister, Ramona Kirkpatrick of Long Beach, California; a brother, Marvin McDonald, of Mt. Vernon, Washington, and several nieces and nephews.

# **Edith (Bootes) Cummings**

Edith (Bootes) Cummings, 86, passed away on December 19 in Tampa, Florida.

Survivors include two brothers, George R. Bootes of Sulphur, Oklahoma, and Harold Bootes of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; a daughter, Judith (Cummings) Gillis of Tampa; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



He always showed interest in the activities of his children. He was a Boy Scout and Cub Scout leader for 30 years and helped his daughter with her 4-H projects. He was an example to them and to other young people, teaching them skills and fair play.

Kirby was devoted to his wife through several severe accidents and illnesses. He was always there for his children and right or wrong he stood behind his family. He was greatly admired and loved by his extended family as he considered them as his own children.

Kirby was a member of the HAM Radio Club, Brookings. His call letters were WA6KCU. He made friends all over the world through his radio involvement. He loved raising flowers and cared for them in the same manner that he cared for his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister and four brothers.

Survivors include his wife, Vera of Brookings; sons, Bobbie Anderson and wife, Irma, of Brookings, Alan Anderson and wife, Carol, of Modesto, Stanley Anderson of Turlock, California, and Roy Anderson of Modesto; daughter, Carolyn Stidham and husband, Rick, of Madras, Oregon; eight grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

# **Bradley Dean Modlin**

Bradley Dean Modlin, 7, of Gladewater, Texas, passed away December 25, 2004, in Dallas, Texas. He was born August 10, 1997, the son of William and Michelle (Chumley) Gamblin.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Brandon J. Chumley; grandfather, Troy Chumley, and great-grandfather, Leroy Lawrence.

Survivors include his parents, William and Michelle Gamblin of Hugo, Oklahoma; sister, Bayleigh Modlin of Hugo; grandmother, Betsie Hunter of Hugo; great-grandmother, Jessie Lawrence of Hugo; great-grandparents, Pete and Claudia Chumley of Hugo, and a host of aunts, uncles and cousins.

# **Carolyn Ann Pursell**

Carolyn Ann Pursell, 66, of Forest Chapel, Texas, passed away January 8, 2005, in Paris Regional Medical Center. She was born November 26, 1938, in McAlester, Oklahoma, the daughter of Jesse and Nellie (Scott) Compelube. She was a homemaker and a member of the Chicota Baptist Church.

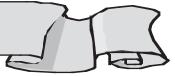
She married Jerry Wayne Pursell on August 18, 1981, in Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

Survivors include her husband; children, Traci Pursell of the home; Nelda Harrell and husband, Rodney, of Lewisville, Texas, Sharon Blasengame and husband, Jimmy, of Paris, and Karen Molander and husband, Joe, of McAlester; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren, and a sister, Mary Rosenbaum of McAlester.



# E

# **OBITUARIES**



# Melvin Ray Jackson Sr.

Melvin Ray Jackson Sr., 71, of Leflore, Oklahoma, passed away July 29, 2004, in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. He was born March 9, 1933, in Cravens Community, the son of Andrew and Mary (Baker) Jackson.

He married Marie Adams on March 3, 1958, in Wilburton, Oklahoma. He was of the Baptist faith and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Leflore. He worked for many years after retirement from Safeway Food Warehouse in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, one sister and a daughter, Ellen Marie Jackson.

Survivors include his wife, Marie, of the home; two sons, Melvin Jackson Jr. of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Wendell Jackson of Oklahoma City; two daughters, Shelia Jackson and Kathy Jackson of Tulsa; two granddaughters; one step-granddaughter; one grandson and one step-grandson; two brothers, Leslie Pope and wife of Red Oak, Oklahoma, and Virgil Jackson; two sisters, Edna Hardaway of Red Oak and Velma Farmer of Wilburton; several nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

# **Ruth Irene Turner**

Ruth Irene Turner, 83, passed away January 10, 2005, at Atoka Memorial Hospital. She was born April 13, 1921, in Wapanucka, Oklahoma, the daughter of William Mosley and Eula Kelly Mosley.

She was a homemaker and a member of the First Baptist Church in Atoka, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Ava Mosley.

Survivors include her former husband, friend and father of her children, Elmer Turner of Lawton, Oklahoma; five chil-

dren, Dean Turner and wife, Kay, of Cushing, Oklahoma, Susie Kilpatrick and husband, Rickie, of Sherman, Texas, William Turner, David Turner and Robert Turner and friend, Linda Silvers, all of Atoka; nine grandchildren, Timothy Turner of Longwood, Florida, Tiffany Turner of Knoxville, Tennessee, Jason Kilpatrick and Jacob Kilpatrick, both of Sherman, Michelle Turner of Susanville, California, Sarah Turner of Atoka, Stormie Turner and Christopher Turner, both of Lane, Oklahoma, and Shannon Turner of Ardmore, Oklahoma; two great-grandchildren, Daniel Turner and Abigail Turner, both of Susanville; and a host of friends, including two very special friends, Kathryn Camp and Velma Vieux, both of Atoka.

# **Gloria Ann Taylor**

Gloria Ann Taylor, 66, of Tuttle, Oklahoma, passed away January 5, 2005, in Norman, Oklahoma. She was born March 4, 1938, in Lawton, Oklahoma, the daughter of Egtill Mac McKinney Jr. and Anna Marie (Sparks) McKinney.

Mrs. Taylor lived in Tuttle for over 30 years. She was a Certified Medical Assistant and worked at Somerset Living Center in Moore. She and Billy Joe Taylor were marrried in 1972 in Texas. He preceded her in death.

She was also preceded in death by a grandson, granddaughter, three brothers, one sister and her parents.

Survivors include two daughters, Helen Marie Fryrear of Amber, Oklahoma, and Debra Sue Deck of Bridgecreek, Oklahoma; eight sons, Charles Douglass McDaniels Jr., George Randell McDaniels, and Alex Ben McDaniels, all of Tuttle, Randy Joe Taylor, David Allen Taylor and Roy Wayne Taylor, all of Bridgecreek, Oklahoma, Rick McDaniels of Luther, Oklahoma, and Mark Egtill McDaniels of Bethany; 27 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Larry Wayne McKinney and George L. McKinney, both of Salem, Oregon; and two sisters, Mary Emberly of Atoka, Oklahoma, and Helen Ruth of Salem.

# John Calloway "Jack" Dyer

John Calloway "Jack" Dyer, 81, passed away November 30, 2004, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born February 18, 1923, in Eagletown, Oklahoma, to William Harrison and Amanda (Barnett) Dyer.

Jack married Fern Dell Gunter on August 29, 1953, in Gallup, New Mexico.

He was a retired teacher and coach for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He taught at Shiprock and Ft. Wingate, New Mexi-

co, and at Concho, Oklahoma. He was also a former member of the American Legion. Jack served his country actively during World War II in the U.S. Army and as a reservist during the Korean War. He received a World War II Victory Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, EAME Theater Ribbon and two Bronze Service Stars, American Theater Ribbon and a Bronze Star Medal.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, William "Bill" Dyer, and four sisters, his twin, Madeline King, Juanita Thomas, Etta Mae James and Ramona Pope.

Survivors include his wife, Fern (Gunter) Dyer; four daughters, Rebecca "Becky" Swisher and Ray Hill of Park Hill, Oklahoma, Julia Cummings and husband, Bruce, of Indianola, Oklahoma, Jacquie Evans and Jimmy Armer of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and Dianne Ezell and husband, Ronnie, of El Reno, Oklahoma; a son, Clifford "Boe" Dyer of Park Hill; a brother, Loyd Dyer and wife, Linda, of Tahlequah; eleven grandchildren, Richard Wood, Kristin Prag, Tosha Ezell, Tamie Ezell, Taryn Ezell, John Cummings, Amanda Cummings, Emily Evans, C.J. Dyer, Ryan Dyer and Starrla Dyer, and two great-grandchildren, Ethan and Griffin Prag.

# **Roy Pebsworth**

Roy Pebsworth, 75, of Hugo, Oklahoma, passed away December 30, 2004, in Hugo. He was born January 3, 1929, in Grant, Oklahoma, to Void Preston and Willie (Byars) Pebsworth. He married Madeline Speck on July 23, 1950, in DeQueen, Arkansas. They had five children and have lived in the Hugo area for the past 15 years. He worked for the Frisco Railroad for nine and one-half years as a telegraph lineman. In 1957

he went to work for the federal government as an avionics technician at the Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City. In 1966, the family transferred to Anchorage, Alaska, where Roy continued his career with the Federal Aviation Administration. Roy and Madeline enjoyed their life in Alaska and lived there until Roy's retirement in 1987. Roy and Madeline moved back to Hugo and built a home together. Roy was an active member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Karen D. Pebsworth; one son, Michael P. Pebsworth; his parents; two half-brothers, Ray and Herbert Pebsworth, and one half-sister, Helen Branch.

Survivors include his wife, Madeline Pebsworth of the home; son, Steve Pebsworth and wife, Donna, of Camas, Washington; two daughters, Sharon L. McDonald and husband, Todd, of Denver, Colorado, and Lisa C. Price and husband, Larry, of Longview, Washington; three sisters, Bobbie Jo Jones of Paris, Texas, Billie Faye Botkin of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and Betty Sue Berryhill of Aztec, New Mexico; ten grandchildren, Robert Pebsworth, Eric Pebsworth, Terra Stanley, Lynn Lower, Melissa Miller, Scott Price, Poppie Salinas, Stacy Lee Bell, Preston Pebsworth and Dalton Pebsworth; eight great-grandchildren, Kariss Bell, Madelyn Page, Zacary Salinas, Shaedon Bell, Kallyann Stanley, Taylor Pebsworth, James Price and Mason Price.

# Mary Lou (Sweeney) Amos

Mary Lou (Sweeney) Amos passed away December 25, 2004, in Lawton, Oklahoma. She was born July 7, 1933, in Marlow, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by infant daughters Carolyn and Mariette and one son, Dennis Mark.

Survivors include her husband, Wilson Amos of the home; sons, Harold Amos Sr. of McAlester, Oklahoma, and Benny Amos of Nashville, Tennessee; daughter, Brenda Amos of Duncan, Oklahoma; two grandsons, Harold Keith Amos Jr. of Krebs, Oklahoma, and Gordon Mark Allen Odebrick of Marlow; two granddaughters, Andrea Michelle Amos of McAlester and Sage White of Duncan, and numerous nieces and nephews.

# **Mildred Sue Cusher**

Mildred Sue Cusher, 63, of Pickens, Oklahoma, passed away December 5, 2004, at her home. She was born July 15, 1941, at Talihina, Oklahoma, to Esias Noah and Marsusie Colbert.

Mildred lived in Dimmit, Texas, for many years, later moving to Altus, Oklahoma in 1976, then moving back to Pickens in 1983, where she lived until her death.



She was a homemaker and served in

her beloved home church, Mt. Zion Presbyterian, as a secondary Sunday School teacher. Mildred loved studying God's word and singing the gospel. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and her family and enjoyed cooking and fishing.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Sam and Roger Cusher; her husband, John Cusher; parents; grandmother, Irene Blueeye; two sisters, Hazel Willis and Brenda Chotkey; one brother, Larry Noah; and one granddaughter, Terri Bohanan.

Survivors include three sons and two daughters-in-law, Don and Sandra Cusher of Altus, Joe and Gayle Cusher of Battiest, Oklahoma, and Mike Cusher of Pickens; two daughters, Cindy and Anita Cusher, both of Pickens; one brother, Gary Noah of Broken Bow, Oklahoma; two sisters, Louisa Resendiz and Arma Billy, both of Broken Bow; 12 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, a host of nieces and nephews and many friends.

Our family was very blessed to have her in our lives. She showed us how to be believers in Christ. Mildred will missed by all who knew and loved her.



# www.choctawhomefinance.web-loans.com

We lend money in all 50 states and if you qualify you could apply for up to 333,700 with 1 to 3%down with a conventional fixed rate for 30 years



# Able "Tom" Amos

Able "Tom" Amos passed away October 11, 2004. He was born February 7, 1922. A loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend to many, he will always be in our thoughts and our hearts.

# David "Dave" Quentin

David "Dave" Quentin, 84, of Hugo, Oklahoma, passed away January 25, 2005, at his home. He was born September 11, 1920, and had lived in Hugo since 1983.

Mr. Quentin enjoyed attending organization meetings of which he was a member and was actively involved in each of them. He enjoyed attending pow wows, fishing and making jewelry.

He was a heavy equipment operator and a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, DAV, VFW, American Legion Post #59, Order of the Eastern Star, Ft. Towson Masonic Lodge #303, Hugo Masonic Lodge #217, and Scottish Rite Freemasonry Shriner. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Air Force.

Survivors include his wife, Octavia (McCoy) Quentin.

# Choctaw Nation Community Dinners & Resource Rallies - District 7 -

Councilman Jack Austin

Moyers School February 28 • 6 p.m.

Rattan School March 14 • 6 p.m.

Nashoba Community Center March 28 • 6 p.m.

Wright City Choctaw Field Office April 4 • 6 p.m.

Antlers Choctaw Field Office April 18 • 6 p.m.

# JOB READINESS SEMINAR

Choctaw Nation Projects with Industry Program will be offering a Job Readiness Seminar at the Choctaw Nation Field Office in Idabel, Oklahoma. The seminar will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22, and Thursday, February 24. The PWI program would like to take this opportunity to invite Native Americans to participate in the two-day training on preparing to go to the workforce field. For further details contact Randy Hammons, Director of the PWI program, at 877-285-6893 or 580-326-7758.

> Ardmore High School Native American Club "Dreamcatchers" & Southeastern Oklahoma Inter-Tribal Pow-wow Alliance FUNDRAISING POWWOW

# **MARCH 5, 2005**

Chickasaw Nation's Carter Seminary Gymnasium 2400 Chickasaw Blvd., Ardmore, Oklahoma – Arts & Crafts, Food, Raffles, 50/50 –

# HEADSTAFF

MC: Herbert Johnston Jr., Livingston, Texas Head Singer: Al Santos (Otter Trail), Carnegie, Oklahoma Head Man Dancer: Kelly Switch, Oklahoma City Head Lady Dancer: Randi Santos, Carnegie, Oklahoma Head Gourd Dancer: Dennis Begay, Dallas, Texas Arena Director: Don Stroud, Tahlequah, Oklahoma Color Guard: TBA

## **SCHEDULE**

 2:00-5:00
 Gourd Dance

 5:00-6:00
 Supper Break

 6:00-7:00
 Gourd Dance

 7:00-11:00
 Inter-Tribal Dance

All veterans, princesses, drums and dancers welcome.

Powwow information: Cedric Ketcheshawno - 580-317-3767 Arts & Crafts information: Thomas L. Cronemeyer - 580-277-9481

Bring your own chairs. No alcoholic beverages or drugs is not allowed. - and if eligible, Choctaw Nation Home Finance will finance 2% of your down payment and all of your closing as a second mortgage.

For any additional information needed, call Choctaw Nation Housing Authority, Home Finance Department, at 1-800-235-3087 for help with the application and/or we will address additional questions for you.

# **CHOCTAW NATION HOME FINANCE**

# ATTENTION CHOCTAW ARTISTS

Are you interested in participating in a Juried and Judged Choctaw Indian Art Show?

# Let us hear from you!

Please fill out the following interest form in order to receive more information regarding the show which will be held in Tushka Homma, Oklahoma, during the Labor Day Festival in September. Included will be the following categories: painting, sculpture, basketry, pottery, graphics and cultural.

Please fill out the form and return it to address below. An entry packet will be sent to you in March.

	Name						
	Address						
	City/State/Zip						
	Telephone number						
	E-mail address						
	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma membership is required.						
	Your artistic expertise is in what category? (Painting, sculpture, basketry, etc.)						
	Return to: Beverly Nelson Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex 16th and Locust Durant, OK 74701 1-800-522-6170, Ext. 2485						
1							



Choctaw Social Dancers are available for banquets, conferences or just a gathering. They enjoy sharing a piece of the Choctaw culture through dance. There is no fee for performances although the group does accept donations benefitting the American Indian Leaders Youth Council. All proceeds go toward the AILYC's annual pow wow. For more information or bookings, please contact Sarah Davis at 580-584-2765, ext. 4517.

# **Broken Bow students** plan annual Pow Wow

**9th Annual** Spring Contest **Pow Wow**  $\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond$ April 2, 2005  $\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond$ **McCurtain County Sports Complex Broken Bow**  $\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond$ Afternoon activities include stickball game, **AILYC Princess** coronation and gourd dancing  $\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond$ **Contest dance** categories: <u>Men</u> Teen Boys & Jr Boys Traditional Straight Fancy Grass Ladies **Teen Girls** & Jr Girls **Buckskin** Cloth Fancy **Jingle** Tiny Tots

> Must be in **Grand Entry** to compete



Dance practice, taco sales, club meetings and sign making - these are just a few of the many preparations that the American Indian Leadership Youth Council and the Johnson O'Malley students of the

Broken Bow, Oklahoma, school system are making for their ninth annual Spring Contest Pow Wow on April 2. The pow wow is held each year at the McCurtain County Sports Complex next to the high school.

Mayor Jerry Don Smith has proclaimed "Native American Awareness Week" in Broken Bow during March 28 through April 1. During this week the entire school system will learn about Native America history and culture and participate in an art contest. The Johnson O'Malley parent committee will sponsor a "Cultural Fair" on Friday, April 1, and will host programs from the Choctaw Nation, health programs, and college recruiters. The AILYC students will serve as guides, dressed in their ceremonial Choctaw regalia, while other students sing Choctaw Hymns and sign the "Lord's Prayer."

Award-winning Native American artist Jon Tiger of Eufaula, Oklahoma, will be featured during these activities and will judge the art contest. Tiger's paintings will be on display at the fair and at a reception that will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Broken Bow Public Library, Fourth and Broadway streets. The public is invited.

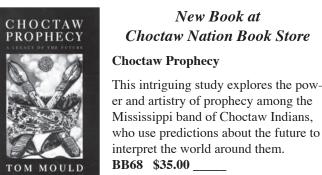
A stickball game is scheduled to begin Saturday's events at 12 noon and the AI-

LYC club is calling out all AILYC Alumni for some exciting competition. The Alumni won the Five Civilized Tribes tournament held in Muskogee in 1977. Following the stickball game will be the club princess coronation. This year's Senior Princess is Kisha Battiest, daughter of Phyllis Roberts and the late Levi Battiest, and Junior Princess is Geri White, daughter of Linda White.



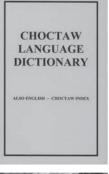
# **Choctaw Nation Book Store** P.O. Drawer 1210 Durant OK 74702-1210

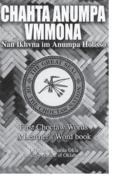
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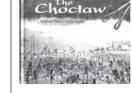


The Choctaw Oklahoma

## The Choctaw of OK

The book has 400 pages about an integral part of U.S. History, a history of struggle and survival among a culture that has emerged into a thriving and





of war, Choctaw stickball, Choctaw life, food, clothing, art, religion, and sadness honor the Choctaw today. Reading level 9-12. Library binding. 32 pages.

ritory.

BB67 \$22.00 \_\_\_\_\_

The Choctaw Stickball

## Children's Book

New Book at

**Choctaw Nation Book Store** 

The Removal of the Choctaw Indians

The Removal of the Choctaw Indians

by Arthur H. DeRosier, Jr. The story

of the removal of the Choctaw Nation

from Mississippi lands to Indian Ter-

New Children's Book at

**Choctaw Nation Book Store** 

The stickball players of the south

- Content including little brother

#### Pashofa Pole

Pashofa Pole is the first in a series of five children's books produced by the Choctaw Nation. Copyright 2000. 30 pages. 11 inches tall x 8-1/2 inches wide. Hardcover. The entire story is written in the Choctaw Language. The second part of the book is written in the English Language. BB29 \$20.00 \_

#### Children's Book

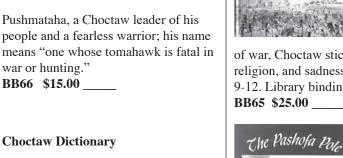
#### **Boy Who Almost Lost His Name**

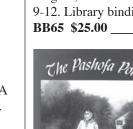
The Boy Who Almost Lost His Name is the second book in a series of five produced by the Choctaw Nation. The entire story is written in the Choctaw Language. The second part of the book is written in the English Language. BB34 \$20.00

### Children's Book

**Choctaw Jacks** 

Choctaw Jacks is the third in a series of five children's books produced by





English - Choctaw Language Intro - A Dictionary of the Choctaw Language. Rev. Cyrus Byington. 611 pages, 8-



1/2" tall x 5 1/2 inches wide.

**Choctaw Dictionary** 

Pushmataha

war or hunting."

BB66 \$15.00

# **Choctaw Definer**

Choctaw Definer: Chahta Anumpa Vmmona First Words - A Learner's Word Book - Most common 1,500 words used in the Choctaw Language.

New Book at

**Choctaw Nation Book Store** 

New Book at

**Choctaw Nation Book Store** 

Pushmataha, a Choctaw leader of his

BB45 \$10.00

Gourd dancing will begin at 4 p.m. under the leadership of Head Gourd Dancer Willard Polk, Choctaw, of Durant, Oklahoma. Registration for the dance competition will begin at 10 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. with Grand Entry at 6:30 p.m. Dancers must be in Grand Entry to compete.

Other Head Staff include Head Lady Dancer, Tracy Pewo, Kiowa, of Anadarko, Oklahoma; Master of Ceremonies, Herbert Johnson, Coushatta, of Livingston, Texas, and Arena Director, Mickey Weryackwe, Choctaw/Comanche, of Broken Bow.

Every year the AILYC honors two leaders in the community, an Alumnus and an Indian Educator. After 30 years of service to the Broken Bow school system, Curtis Billy, Choctaw, recently retired and the AILYC will honor him as Indian educator. His titles have included Indian Arts and Crafts teacher, elementary counselor, Choctaw language class instructor, and the founder of the AILYC. Under his leadership, Choctaw youth have been playing stickball, learning to make the sticks and the ball, and Choctaw dancers have performed at school functions, conferences and the state fair.

Through the years Curtis has taught GED classes, worked with the JOM program, Upward Bound, Native American Gifted and Talented, American Indian Math and Science, and numerous youth-related church and community activities. In 1992, Curtis was honored as "Parent of the Year" by the National Indian Education Association. Currently, he works with the Choctaw Nation Language course at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, and will teach Choctaw history on the Internet this fall. Mr. Billy grew up in Broken Bow and graduated from Broken Bow High School in 1969. He received his B.A. degree in Art Education and his master's degree in Behavioral Studies of Guidance and Counseling. Gary Tushka, one of the first AILYC officers, will be on hand to present Curtis with an award.

Since the retirement of Mr. Billy, the Broken Bow school system and the JOM parent committee have had the pleasure of welcoming Sarah Davis aboard. Sarah, Choctaw, is the new AILYC sponsor and school counselor. She received a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, and a Master of Science in Human Resources from East Central University, Ada.

Jackie Anna will be honored as the AILYC Alumni. Mrs. Anna, Choctaw, graduated from Broken Bow High School and was a member of the first AILYC club. For over 20 years now, "Miss Jackie" has been employed with the Choctaw Nation Head Start program and is doing an outstanding job teaching preschoolers and preparing them for Kindergarten. Jackie has taught children in Idabel, Wright City and Broken Bow. Most of the AILYC students got their start under the teaching of Miss Jackie and well remember the songs and stories that they learned as her students.

A community of native people working together, volunteering, and parents helping students have made this gathering possible. Native American culture will explode as dancers grace the pow wow arena in their regalia and the beat of the drum calls out, "Come and dance."

A very sincere "Welcome" is extended to all from the AILYC and the JOM parent committee. Arts and crafts spaces are available at \$25 per space. Vendors must provide their own table and chairs. For more information, you may call Sarah Davis at 580-584-2876, Sandra Frazier at 580-584-2767, or Mickey Weryackwe at 580-584-5491.



resourceful people.

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