



BISHINIK

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OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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Texas water talks terminated, proposed water deal at impasse

Texans are unwilling to pay what Oklahoma state and tribal negotiators felt was a fair price for Oklahoma water, so negotiations have ceased. State and tribal financial advisors have placed a reasonable present value of \$339 million on the project. The North Texas group offered \$174 million. Over the life of this project, the Oklahoma proposal would have brought in over \$5 billion to Southeast Oklahoma.

Revenue earmarked from the sale/lease agreement was slated to establish numerous water/sewer system improvements, new roads, hospitals and health care, and other benefits. The sizable up-front payment and revenue stream generated by a water marketing contract would also have provided enhanced bonding capacity for the Compact Commission, created by the draft Water Compact. According to the Department of Environmental Quality and Rural Development, a federal funding agency, at least \$93 million is required to upgrade public water supply and wastewater infrastructure throughout the southeast Oklahoma region.

"We have elected to cease all deliberations with representatives of the North Texas Water Agency (NTWA). As a result, we are unable to submit a viable plan for the development of southeast Oklahoma

waters to the State Legislature during the upcoming session," stated Howard Barnett, Governor Keating's Chief of Staff, as part of a joint announcement including Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby.

"While both sides recognize the enormous real and intrinsic value of southeast Oklahoma's precious water supplies, north Texas officials stand firm on what they believe the water is worth in relation to the transfer restrictions and other protective measures that Oklahoma requires," Barnett said. He added that although the two parties had agreed in principle to general engineering and water transfer scenarios, NTWA's current proposal was insufficient to provide required protection for Oklahomans as well as to adequately compensate Oklahoma for the water.

"North Texas officials are adamant about Oklahoma providing reliable storage for them to draw upon, instead of having to rely upon available river flows. However, we steadfastly oppose the assignment of storage in existing lakes or the construction of new reservoirs to fulfill their needs. In conjunction with our demands for protective measures concerning drought and future water supply for Oklahomans, Texas' latest offer provides insufficient monetary com-

ensation for the water based upon our estimates of their costs to secure other sources of supply," Barnett pointed out.

An independent appraisal firm from Redmond, Washington recently estimated that Texas' least-cost alternative water supply project — Marvin Nichols Reservoir, a controversial 72,000-acre project proposed in the 2002 Texas Water Plan — would require \$5.1 billion to construct. That figure, according to Barnett, represents a conservative starting point that Oklahoma negotiators were prepared to request from their counterparts south of the state line. Although no specific contract terms have been contemplated, one draft revenue scenario envisioned an up-front payment from Texas of \$35 million with annual payments escalating between \$9 and \$124 million throughout the 100-year life of the deal. Revenue would be paid directly to a public trust established through the pending State/Tribal Water Compact.

"The Tribes have always contended that if an agreement could not be reached that was good for southeast Oklahoma and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, we would walk away from the negotiating table," said Chief Pyle. "This water is our birthright and if we can't

See WATER on Page 3

News in the Nation

11th Annual Swine/Beef Show set for February 2

The 11th annual Choctaw Nation Swine/Beef Show is scheduled for Saturday, February 2 at the Eastern Oklahoma State College Goddard Show barn on Hwy. 270, west of Wilburton. The swine show starts at 10 a.m. with the beef show following.

To be eligible a student must be 9 to 19 years of age, attend school or live within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation, be a member of FFA or 4-H, and have a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB card).

For more information, contact your FFA or 4-H advisor, Brandon Spears at 918-297-7373 or Brad Spears at 918-297-2518.

Meet the new diabetes educators in your community

Two new diabetes educators from the Diabetes Treatment Center will be visiting your area.

Lee Ann Roberts, R.N., is the community coordinator for McAlester, Wilburton, Stigler, Coalgate, Atoka and Crowder.

Annette Choate, R.N., is the community coordinator for Broken Bow, Hugo, Bethel, Wright City, Idabel, Antlers and Durant.

The services available in the Choctaw Nation clinics and field offices include: diabetes education, one-on-one and group sessions, exercise programs, diet and nutrition material (meal planning), glucometer training, medication teaching and insulin administration.

Call the Diabetes Treatment Center, 918-567-7000, for more information about making an appointment to see the diabetes educator in your area and improving your overall quality of life and lowering your blood sugars.

Durant's Choctaw language class begins Phase I

Phase I of the Durant Choctaw Language Class will begin Monday, January 28.

Class will meet each Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Durant Senior Citizens Community Center, 1705 W. Locust.

Instructor for the class is Ann Kaniatobe. She can be reached after 5 p.m. at 580-924-5192 or you may call Richard Adams, Language Director, at 580-924-8280 or 800-522-6170 for more information.



District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh and Chief Gregory E. Pyle present a donation to the Southeastern Foundation from the Choctaw Nation. Accepting are Rena Dosh Caffey and Patricia Green Swafford, members of the Russell School History Preservation Group.

Tribe contributes to Russell School Memorial Clock fund

Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Councilman Ted Dosh recently presented funds to assist in the building of the Russell School Memorial Clock on the campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. The donation matches funds raised by the Russell School History Preservation Group.

The clock will be located near the Russell Building which now houses Southeastern's School of Business. From 1920 until 1953 the Russell Training School, as it was then known, served as the training location for many area teachers. The Training School pupils were in grades one through twelve. OPC resident/students were an important part of the Russell School enrollment, and many of them returned as student teachers while attending Southeastern. From 1953 to 1968, grades one through six attended Russell and were part of the Durant Public School System.

In addition to the clock, there will be a small museum in a corner of the third-floor auditorium. Former pupils are donating items from their school days to display there. A bronze memorial plaque will be placed on the front of the building.

The committee is seeking names and addresses of anyone who ever attended Russell. When the clock is finished, a Russell School Reunion will be held.

New program helps Choctaws get more active

REACH 2010 is a federal grant program for the Choctaw Nation. Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) cards are not necessary for you to register in this program. You only need to identify your Indian heritage on the registration form.

REACH is a federally funded grant program that includes the Choctaw Nation, seven other Indian tribes, and the Indian Health Care Resources Center of Tulsa. The Oklahoma State Department of Health, Chronic Disease Services, is the coordinating agency.

What can you expect if you participate in REACH?

- Start up: Turn in your registration packet, then the REACH staff will meet with you for baseline measurements of height, weight, body fat %, or hip-to-waist ratios.

Quality Fitness



With in REACH

Get a FREE T-shirt or backpack just for registering to participate in the REACH program!

- Keep a journal (made easy for you) to check off your physical activity.
- Get remeasured every six months and turn in your activity logs to track your progress.
- Get your FREE T-shirt or backpack when you complete registration.
- Get ANOTHER FREE incentive (an incentive is something to motivate you to hang in there!) every time you are remeasured.

Idabel resident Presley Byington relays Olympic Flame in Hot Springs

Idabel resident Presley Byington proudly carried the Olympic torch through a portion of Hot Springs on December 13th. Presley ran from TV Hill Road to Columbia Hill in Hot Springs. Senior citizens of the Choctaw Nation were bused in by the tribe to cheer their home-town guy on as he ran the relay of the Flame.

Presley was selected by the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC), Coca-Cola and Chevrolet to be among torchbearers selected to carry the Olympic Flame on its 65-day, 13,500-mile journey from Atlanta, Georgia to Salt Lake City.

Torchbearers were nominated by family members, friends or co-workers by writing an essay describing how the nominee embodied the Olympic spirit and

See TORCH on Page 8



Burk on U.S. Olympic Rodeo Team



Blair Burk is looking forward to competing in the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. The Oklahoma Choctaw Olympian will be on the U.S. Rodeo Team, competing on February 9, 10 and 11. Blair qualified for the Olympics by winning the Wrangler Finals in Las Vegas this past year. Two other major finals in professional rodeo determined some of the other team members for the Olympic team, Shawn Franklin, who won the Dodge National Circuit Finals in Idaho, and Stran Smith, who won the Summer Tour Finale in Dallas.

This will be the first year that rodeo has been included in the Olympics since 1988 at Calgary.

Walking Paths Identified

ATOKA COUNTY

- Atoka: City Park/Walking Path
- Lane: OSU Research Lab

BRYAN COUNTY

- Durant: Southeastern Oklahoma State University/Track, Walking Track by the High School
- Lakeland: Nature Trail Walking Path

CHOCTAW COUNTY

- Hugo: Mt. Olivet Cemetery/Ansley Park Walking Trail
- Boswell: Park/Walking Track

COAL COUNTY

- Coalgate: 45th Infantry Park Walking Path

HASKELL COUNTY

- Stigler: Stigler Railroad Walking Path

LATIMER COUNTY

- Wilburton: Walking Path behind the Choctaw Nation Head Start

- Red Oak: Walking Path by the Ball Field
- Buffalo Valley: Walking Path

LEFLORE COUNTY

- Poteau: Bill J. Barber Park Walking Track, School Track
- Cedar Lake: Walking Track

TALIHINA COUNTY

- Talihina: School Track, Choctaw Nation Health Care Facility

MCCURTAIN COUNTY

- Wright City: Small Park Walking Trail
- Valliant: Weyerhaeuser Plant Grounds

- Broken Bow: Park Walking Track
- Beavers Bend: Walking Path

IDAABEL COUNTY

- Idabel: Walking Track by the School
- Haworth: Walking Path on the Wet Lands

PITTSBURG COUNTY

- McAlester: Mike Deek walking Track, Mullens Park, Stipe Track
- Savanna: Walking Path

PUSHMATAHA COUNTY

- Clayton: Baseball Field Walking Track
- Tuskahoma: Choctaw Nation Capital Walking Path

Espinoza receives teaching certificate

The Choctaw Tribal Council met in regular session January 12 to approve funding for the 11th Annual Choctaw Nation Swine/Beef Show, which will be held February 2 in Wilburton.

Councilmembers also witnessed the presentation of a Choctaw Language Teaching Certificate to Virginia Espinoza, who will be working as an assistant teacher on the Internet and one-net classes.

The budget was approved for the Native American Caregiver Support Program and for the Administration on Aging program.

A seismic permit in Bryan County and a business lease for the Lake Eufaula Rod & Gun Club were approved.



District 9 Councilman Ted Dosh, Speaker Kenny Bryant, Virginia Espinoza and Language Director Richard Adams.

Choctaw student obtains nursing degree

Dear Chief Pyle,

I would like to thank you and the Choctaw Nation for helping me financially to obtain my Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Bartlesville Wesleyan University. I graduated Saturday, December 15, 2001.

I am very proud of my Choctaw heritage. My great-grandfather was an original enrollee. There is nothing more important than education, and again, thank you very much.

Diane (O'Connell) Johnson
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Strong leadership equals growth for tribe

Dear Chief Pyle,

My husband and myself recently acquired an Indian home in the Antlers area. A home of this quality and design would not have been possible for us on our fixed income without the help of the Choctaw Nation.

This letter is to express our greatest thanks to the Choctaw Nation and specifically to Chief Gregory E. Pyle, for without his strong leadership and management abilities such growth and accomplishments for our tribe would not have been possible.

We would also like to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to Russell Sossamon, Executive Director; Duane Winship, Deputy Director, and Rita Johnson for their professionalism, service and most especially their kindness and desire to help others.

Thank you all very much for your efforts in making our dream come true. We wish each of you a Happy New Year. May God bless you always and may the Choctaw tribe remain strong and prosper in the years to come.

Darrell and Linda Sorrells
Antlers, Oklahoma



Christmas party was a lot of fun

Dear Editor,

This is a picture of my daughter, Lillian Jane Howard, with her present from Santa that she got at the Choctaw Christmas party in Heavener. Her father, Mike Howard, also won \$100 in the drawing. We had fun and thank everyone very much who made it possible.

Amy Howard
Hodgen, Oklahoma

Choctaw student obtains nursing degree

Dear Editor,

A short time ago my three sons and four daughters presented a wonderful honor to me for Father's Day.

Many kind words were given in my behalf, including the Bishop of the United Methodist Church, President of Oklahoma University, Superintendent of Goodland and Governor Keating declaring a day for me. The honor I cherished most are the words of kindness and the plaque from the Choctaw Nation.

I would like to thank Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey, Joy Culbreath and the Choctaw Language Department for their strong support of our Choctaw language. This emphasis on perpetuating our language has given me the opportunity, as the Choctaw Language Consultant, to return something to my tribe.

I greatly enjoy my tasks. I, like many Choctaws, take great pride in being a Choctaw and having our own language for expression. I thank Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey for successfully bringing the Choctaw Nation into the 21st Century.

May God richly bless each of you.

Yakoke,
Henry J. Willis

Needing Jones family photos

Dear Editor,

This letter is to inquire about some information on the Jones family, particularly the branch in Bennington, formerly of Blue County, Indian Territory, now Bryan County. Does anyone have and can send me a photograph of Reason Jones I or Robert M. Jones I. Also if possible, Zackary and/or Ellis Jones and Zacky's wife, Melinda.

I would truly appreciate any "Freedmen" photos of these families as well.

Charles A. Greene
P.O. Box 3129
Bakersfield, CA 93385-3129

Searching for Choctaw grandparents

Dear Editor,

I am asking anyone who is named Stokeley, related to Stokeleys or knows any Stokeleys to please contact me. I am desperately trying to find out my grandparents' names. My father's name is Cecil Franklin Stokeley. I'm trying to prove my Indian blood. Please help me.

Betty Lou Roberts
P.O. Box 716
Coldsprings, TX 77331

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

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

The BISHINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation. Circulation is monthly.

Exploring ancestral ties

Dear Editor,

I am searching for information on my grandparents' degree of Indian blood. I would deeply appreciate any help.

My grandfather, William Allen Hightower of North Carolina, circa 1850, moved to Oklahoma in 1906 or so. He married Elsie Mae Jenkins, date of birth, February 22, 1903. She was born in Spiro, Oklahoma. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Thomas A. Hightower
M.C.S.P. J-98566
P.O. Box 409000-8-133L
Ione, CA 95640-9000



California resident enjoys reading paper

Dear Editor,

I enjoy, so much, reading my Choctaw paper. I think it is wonderful that so many Choctaws are getting good health care in the new hospital. The many other things that the Nation is doing for our needy people, I am sure, are greatly appreciated.

I was born in Rush Springs on January 6, 1921 and will be celebrating my 81st birthday soon. My mother, grandmother and several aunts and uncles were original enrollees. I am very proud of my Choctaw blood. My health is still good for my age, so I volunteer one day a week at the V.A. Hospital in Palo Alto, California.

I have included a picture of myself and my husband of 51 years, Luster McMinn ADCS USN RET. It was taken on November 11, 2001, Veterans Day, when he rode in the parade. As he is 82 years old and has been in three wars, he was not able to walk. He served 30 years in the service of his country.

Juanita McMinn
Santa Clara, California

Achieving educational goals

Dear Editor,

I recently received a scholarship award letter from the tribal Department of Higher Education for the 2001-02 school year. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Chief Pyle, Larry Wade and the Choctaw Nation for this support in assisting me to achieve my educational and professional goals. I will be completing my last semester at San Diego State University in May of 2002 and will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree from the school of Public Health.

College is very competitive and a difficult undertaking for many of us. Trying to pay for an education is not the least of these challenges. Without financial assistance many people face an uncertain prospect for pursuing their educational goals and dreams. Fortunately, because of opportunities such as this one, the possibility of achieving a higher education is a reality for myself and many others.

Again, thank you for this assistance - it is very much appreciated.

Ches Blevins
San Diego, California

Seeking information on Henry Ward

Dear Editor,

I am needing information on Henry Ward, who bought a pool hall from Walter Graham in Bokoshe, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory in December 1904. I also need to hear from descendants, if possible, of Henry Ward and Evelyn Keiver who married in Eufaula, Oklahoma on October 23, 1909.

I wonder if these two Henry's are the same man and if he is the son of Jeremiah and Sarah Ward of Bokoshe.

Thank you sincerely.

Delcyne Grant
904 Jay Lane
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Choctaw flag included in celebration

Dear Chief Pyle,

We wish to extend our deepest thanks to you for lending us your beautiful Choctaw flag and for your fine words. We were able to have four of the first five Civilized Tribes here. All together, we had seven flags this year over the four we had last year. The seven hung, with the Choctaw in the middle, from the second floor balcony for our November 6 American Indian Heritage Celebration.

Caroline Kern AA
Event Coordinator, Human Relations Committee
U.S. Coast Guard

Searching for brother's whereabouts

Dear Editor,

I am sending this letter to anyone who may know the whereabouts of Gary Vaughn Smith. I was Scotty Lee Smith, now I am Scotty Lee Morrow. Gary is my brother, the son of Gary Don Smith and grandson of Margrete and Raymond Smith. At a very young age I was placed in children's services after my father passed on and my brother was placed there shortly later after my grandmother passed. I was eight at the time and Gary was three years older than me. At age 13, I was adopted. As far as Gary goes, I am not sure.

Please, if anyone knows my brother, I can be reached at 212-995-1056 or 212-677-2789, collect if necessary.

Scotty Lee Morrow

In search of old school mate

Dear Editor,

My husband and I are looking for an old school mate of his, Floyd Meeks. His nickname is "Sockie" or "Sock". The last we heard he was living at LeFlore, Oklahoma.

If anyone has any information, we would deeply appreciate it.

Carl and Mary Lee
Rt. 2 Box 29A
Anadarko, OK 73005

Reservations for Labor Day RV sites begin March 4

PAYMENTS

No reservations will be made without full payment; payment to be in the form of money order or cashier's check or if making payment in person, cash - NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. All personal checks received will be returned without reservations being made.

The fee for the weekend's camping from Thursday through Monday will be \$50.

VEHICLES WITH RV'S

The payment of \$50 allows one (1) RV/travel trailer and one (1) vehicle into the RV area. A \$10 fee will be charged for each additional vehicle pass requested.

No tents will be allowed to hook up to an RV outlet. Any campers caught doing this will be removed by the Tribal Police. The \$50 camping fee is for one RV only.

EARLY ARRIVALS

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

REFUNDS

No refunds will be given after August 16, 2002. All pads not filled by 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 31, 2002 will be offered to those on a waiting list. A fee will be charged to these

RV campers, yet no refund will be made to the original pad holder, as the second party should have had the opportunity to come in on Friday if they had known the pad was to remain empty.

PHONE RESERVATIONS

NO PHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED - NO EXCEPTIONS.

GENERAL PARKING

No RV's will be allowed to park in general parking.

ANIMALS

NO DOGS will be allowed in the festival area. Dogs found running loose will be removed.

SANITATION

A sign-up sheet will be provided at the RV booth for those wishing to have on-site dumping of gray and black water tanks. Payment will be made directly to the sanitation personnel.

There will be a \$10 fine for anyone caught dumping gray or black water in the RV area.

We have a dump station on the premises for those who do not wish to pay for individual dumping by the sanitation personnel.

TOWAWAY OF VEHICLE

Any vehicle blocking the access areas between rows of RV's will be towed away at the owner's expense.

Choctaws support Byington's torch run

Dear Editor,

I would like to say thank you to all who came out to support me during my segment of the Olympic Torch Relay for the 2002 Winter Olympics. It's great to see so many of our Choctaw people come out and show their support for other Choctaws, such as our tribal Elders, Choctaw Princesses (Reanna Frazier and Andrea Fox), District 1 Councilman Charley Jones, and some of the CHR workers along with so many others who took the time out to come and show their support. Once again I would like to say thank you.

Presley Byington

Troopers brighten patients' holiday

For a child or adolescent, being in the hospital can be a stressful event. But being hospitalized at Christmas can be downright depressing. To help Choctaw Nation Health Care Center staff brighten Christmas for the pediatric patients, Trooper Eddie Bohanan visited the facility on Christmas Eve and delivered special Oklahoma Highway Patrol bears. This act of kindness brought several smiles from the patients and staff alike.

The Choctaw Nation Health Care Center would like to say "Thank you!" to Trooper Bohanan and all of the state patrol troopers who made Christmas a little more special for hospitalized children.

2002 RV SPACE RESERVATION

- No reservations accepted before 8 a.m. March 4, 2002 -

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

RV self-contained camper description and length:

Please return to:
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
ATTN: Susan Edwards or Cindy White
P.O. Drawer 1210
Durant, OK 74702-1210

Labor Day Arts & Crafts Booth Reservations

will begin being accepted at
8 a.m. on March 4

OUTSIDE BOOTH - \$50
INSIDE BOOTH - \$55

Cashier's check or money order only. No personal checks.

Call Tanya Allen at
580-924-8280 or 800-522-6170, ext. 2236

New year begins with same priorities

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, with a membership of 129,000, is the third largest tribe in the United States. As the year 2002 begins, we feel it is as important as ever to keep the health, education and well-being of these tribal members top priority.

A year and a half ago, we opened the doors of our new hospital in Talihina. The Health Care Center is a state-of-the-art facility and was financed entirely by the Choctaw Nation through its many economic ventures. In 2001, completion of a hospitality house enables family members of patients to stay close by. A beautiful new building was also completed for Chihullo Li, a program providing treatment for Native American women suffering from substance and alcohol abuse.

A Diabetes Wellness Center is

under construction near the hospital in Talihina, another step in our continuing battle with diabetes. Presently a part of the hospital, the Diabetes Center treats over 3,800 patients.

In order to help not only the tribal members who live in the Choctaw Nation but those throughout the country, an agreement with a national mail order pharmaceutical network allows tribal members anywhere in the United States to obtain prescription drugs through mail order at a reduced price.

We believe that the future of the tribe is in the hands of its youth. Education enhances the lives of tribal members and in turn strengthens the tribe. The nurturing begins in the five Choctaw Nation Day Cares and 14 Head Starts and continues

through school Johnson O'Malley programs and scholarships for higher education. GED classes are also scheduled with a graduation ceremony held each year at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton.

Jones Academy, a residential care center for Native American students, has been operated by the Choctaw Nation since 1984. Two hundred students, from the first through the 12th grade, are in residence there and attend school in Hartshorne. A new library, dormitory and storm shelter have just been completed on the grounds.

Choctaw Language classes have become a very important way of keeping our heritage alive. Courses are offered over the Internet to anyone who wants to learn the language. Beginning last fall, the Internet courses are

offered in four public school systems within the Choctaw Nation's 10 1/2 county service area - Caddo, Durant, Bennington and Bokchito.

Twenty-five certified teachers are also holding language classes in the Choctaw Nation and in several cities throughout the United States.

Tribal elders have reached a time in their lives when they should be able to enjoy life without major worries. The Choctaw Nation has 14 senior citizen centers with three more under construction in Crowder, Spiro and Smithville.

The centers are sites for weekly lunches, language classes, arts and crafts classes and many other activities enjoyed by the area senior citizens. In November, we opened the first of six Independent Living Communities for

low-income elderly who are still able to live independently in a safe and affordable environment. The one-bedroom homes in the Idabel community were built by our own Modular Home Manufacturing plant in Coalgate and are complete with a full kitchen and bath. Independent Living Communities are also planned for Talihina, Durant, McAlester, Poteau and Hugo.

Coalgate's Modular Home plant is just one of many economic ventures owned by the Choctaw Nation. A second modular home plant is being built in Stigler, providing several new jobs in that area, and three manufacturing plants provide much-needed jobs in the Atoka, Hugo and McAlester areas.

Choctaw Management/Ser-



vices Enterprise is an 8(a) company providing services through government contracts. It met its first contract for six physician assistants in 1997. Now, CM/SE has grown to gross \$65 million a year. Current contracts include WIC Overseas, a program for women, infants and children, and Immigration and Naturalization Service offices across the country.

These ventures, along with the tribe's nine travel plazas and four gaming centers, are fundamental in providing the services available to our Choctaws today.

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

Water sale could have helped Southeast Oklahoma with economic development



Discussions of a sale of excess water from Southeast Oklahoma to North Texas water districts have ended. Tribal and State negotiators were working Sunday afternoon on December 30th, and all day New Year's Eve when the negotiations began to break down. The final offer was made to the North Texas water districts on Monday, January 7th, with a deadline for acceptance from Texas set at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 9th.

Chief Pyle and Governor Anotubby agreed that it was imperative that the best financial and engineering advice was solicited, so a national search was initiated to hire the best people for the job. The Choctaw Nation Chief and Tribal Council approved a Council Bill to hire the

best hydrologists, engineers and ecologists for pricing the water. These individuals are graduates with master's and PhD degrees from MIT, Harvard, Stanford and Yale with many years of experience. We also sought out the best legal counsel regarding this issue.

When it was brought to the table we knew what the water was worth. The hydrologists and pricing experts researched the facts and placed a value on the water that we felt to be a fair offer to Texas while being satisfactory to Oklahoma. The North Texas group did not reach the same value on the resource.

The Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations have consistently said that their role in the proposed sale of water is that of

a "protector of Oklahoma resources" and that the people of Oklahoma are their first and foremost priority. We are going to protect the water.

I feel that a successful sale contract could have been one of the most historic events since statehood. It is clear that the tribes and state have kept two important promises by suspending negotiations. Number one, the state senators and representatives were promised a contract by the time legislative session began or the issue would be postponed. The second promise the tribes kept was that if an agreement could not be reached that was a good deal for Southeast Oklahoma and the two tribes, the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes would stop the sale.

Museum Committee auditioning young men to portray Chief Pushmataha

The Choctaw Nation Historical Museum Committee will be auditioning for a person to give Chief Pushmataha's speech at a special event in April. The committee is searching for a Choctaw male between the ages of 18-25 years of age who can give a good portrayal of Chief Pushmataha giving his speech to Chief Tecumseh in 1811. The speech will need to be recited from memory.

Those who are interested must be Choctaw and have membership in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. This speech will be given at a special event planned for late April and may be used at other activities at the discretion of the museum committee.

Auditions will be held in March by appointment only. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be interested, or if you have questions, please call 580-924-8280 or 800-522-6170, ext. 2311 for Donna, ext.



2218 for Freda, or ext. 2243 for Olin. A copy of the speech can be faxed or mailed to you upon request. The orator selected will be based on who best portrays Pushmataha in appearance and speaking abilities.

The Choctaw Nation Museum Committee was organized by

Chief Gregory E. Pyle in March 2001 for the purpose of organizing the museum contents in a more cultural context and preparing the building for greater access by the public. Museum Chairperson is Olin Williams, Cultural Resource Specialist. Other members of the committee include Chief Pyle, Donna Pierce, Freda Nixon, Faye West, Donna Heflin, Sue Folsom, Terry Cole, Gary Batton, Debbie Toney, Scott Newell and Beverly Nelson.

The committee has made plans for refurbishing the interior of the Choctaw Capitol as well as installing a fire retardant system and an elevator and bathrooms. Plans are for work projects to be completed for Labor Day festivities in September.

Pushmataha's speech is one of the planned projects to assist in the preservation of the Choctaw culture and to help bring life to those people who are important to our history.



Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

God has given to us many wonderful new things! We come to Him in faith in Jesus Christ and He gives us the new birth. Then He gives us a new nature, a new heart, a new life, a new hope, and a new task. At the end of the way He will give us a new body in a new home called Heaven. Nothing in Heaven will ever be old or worn out.

Now God has given to us a New Year. This means a new start. We have not done so well in the old year - we have not lived for God as we should. Now we have a new hope. We have dreamed that certain things would happen in the old year, but these dreams have not come true, so we will hold on to the hope that they will come true during this New Year. Maybe it means a new life. Last 2001 New Year's day you were not a Christian, but now you know and love the Lord and you want the New Year 2002 to count for Him.

With our New Year's greetings,

let us look toward the New Year 2002, resolving in our hearts that with God's help we will make it a better year for Him.

Many of us have a desire to be popular and highly regarded but God does not use a person who is controlled by such desires. He has made the wisdom of the world ineffective and has elevated what the world calls foolish - that is, the simplicity of the preaching of the Gospel in order that He might save the lost.

Paul said that God has chosen those whom the world calls foolish in order to confound or put to shame, the wise. This is God's plan.

God has chosen that which the world considers weak so that He might confound that which the world calls mighty. This is the thought of this section of First Corinthians.

Paul used the words in I Corinthians 1:28, "And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are." He has done this in order to show God's purpose and plan.

When God speaks of foolish things, He does not necessarily mean that they are really foolish, but they seem foolish to the people of the world. For instance, the Gospel is simple and it seems nonsense to the world.

In verse 28, Paul uses three expressions, "Base things of the world," "things which are despised," "things which are not."

God wants to show us that the efforts of men and the strength of their organization are useless, because He has chosen to use that which the world has despised. Why has He done this? We read in verse 29, "That no flesh should glory in His presence." Because God uses those who are regarded as nothing to accomplish His work, people cannot say that it is done in the power of the flesh. They must admit that God has done the work, and they must glorify only Him.

Today we are expecting something similar to man worship. People elevate men instead of God. A person will not be used of God until, realizing that he is nothing, he gives God all the glory.

In I Corinthians 1:30, Paul re-emphasized the basic point which he made in the beginning of this chapter, "But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus." In other words, if you are a Christian, you draw all your life from Him. Your existence is in His life-giving power. Your life comes from Him, and

you are a part of Him. You are a member of the body of Christ.

Verse 30 says that God has made Christ unto us "wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."

Jesus Christ has become these things for us once and for all. The act is completed once and for all. The act is completed. Once we are in Christ Jesus, the matter is settled, and we benefit from the results.

Jesus Christ has been made unto us "wisdom." Wisdom is more than knowledge, for knowledge is something that is gained from books, from observation, and from experience. You and I have decisions to make, and we need wisdom in making them. That kind of wisdom is not found in books; it must come from God. Christ is made unto us this wisdom.

Christ is also made unto us "righteousness." The righteousness which God sees as we stand before Him is not our own. His righteousness is given to us through faith in Him. Jesus Christ has become our righteousness, and God the Father counts His Son's righteousness as ours.

Christ has become our "sanctification." Sanctification means "separation unto God." It is a relationship to God which is entered into the moment a person places his faith in Christ as Savior.

Sanctification has to do with holiness, but that holiness is not really ours. The holiness which we have as we stand before God is that of another person - Jesus Christ.

Christ has also become our "redemption." To redeem means "to deliver by paying a price." Christ is the only One Who could deliver us by this method, and He was willing to "taste death for every man." (1 Peter 1:18-19)

The truth of the difference between the standing and the state of the Christian is emphasized and reemphasized in this letter to the Corinthians. Our state refers to our walk (our manner of life) here on earth, which is far from perfect. Our standing refers to our position before God, and it is complete and perfect in Christ Jesus.

May the Lord bless you and may you have a successful New Year 2002.

Remember to bring to the Throne of Grace our nations, both the U.S.A. and Native America. Pray for Chief Gregory Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Tribal Council as they lead our Choctaw Nation.

Inter-Tribal Council to co-host "To Bridge a Gap" Conference

During the February 11 quarterly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, it was agreed that the Inter-Tribal Council will co-host with the National Forest Service the "To Bridge A Gap" Conference.

The conference will be held February 26-28 at the Choctaw Inn in Durant.

Other resolutions approved by the Council included supporting:

- a task force to review the Secretary of the Interior's Reorganization Proposal.

The Council agreed that Chickasaw Governor Bill Annoatubby and Osage Chief Charles Tillman shall be representatives for the Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office

- Dr. Charles Gourd in receiving a sustaining fellowship from ASHOKA:US/Canada, and
- conducting the National Conference of Aging in Oklahoma in 2004

Water continued from Page 1

negotiate a water deal that ensures our future growth and prosperity, there will be no deal at all," he emphasized.

"We've always seen the Tribal role in this process as being a protector of Oklahoma resources with the people of Oklahoma as our first and foremost priority. Although they have negotiated in good faith, I believe that Texas officials have greatly underestimated the value of our water and, as a result, we could not reach an agreement that is the best for all Oklahomans," Governor Annoatubby pointed out.

"Even if we can establish measures far above and beyond what is necessary to protect our water needs, the environment, and present and future generations of Oklahomans," Governor Annoatubby said, "we will not part with one drop of water if it's not absolutely in our best interest."

"To some degree, I think all involved parties are disappointed that we have reached this point. The sale of water from Oklahoma could have been one of the most historic occurrences since statehood," said Mike Bailey, Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

Bertram Bobb Bible Camp

Ringold, Oklahoma

PINE CREEK LAKE
McCURTAIN COUNTY

Announces

Teenage Spring Weekend Retreat

With Missionary Students of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago directing the retreat

March 15-17, 2002

For information, contact
Travis Bankester, Director
Bertram Bobb Bible Camp
P.O. Box 822
Ringold, OK 74754

580-981-2647
www.bbcb-trailofhope.org

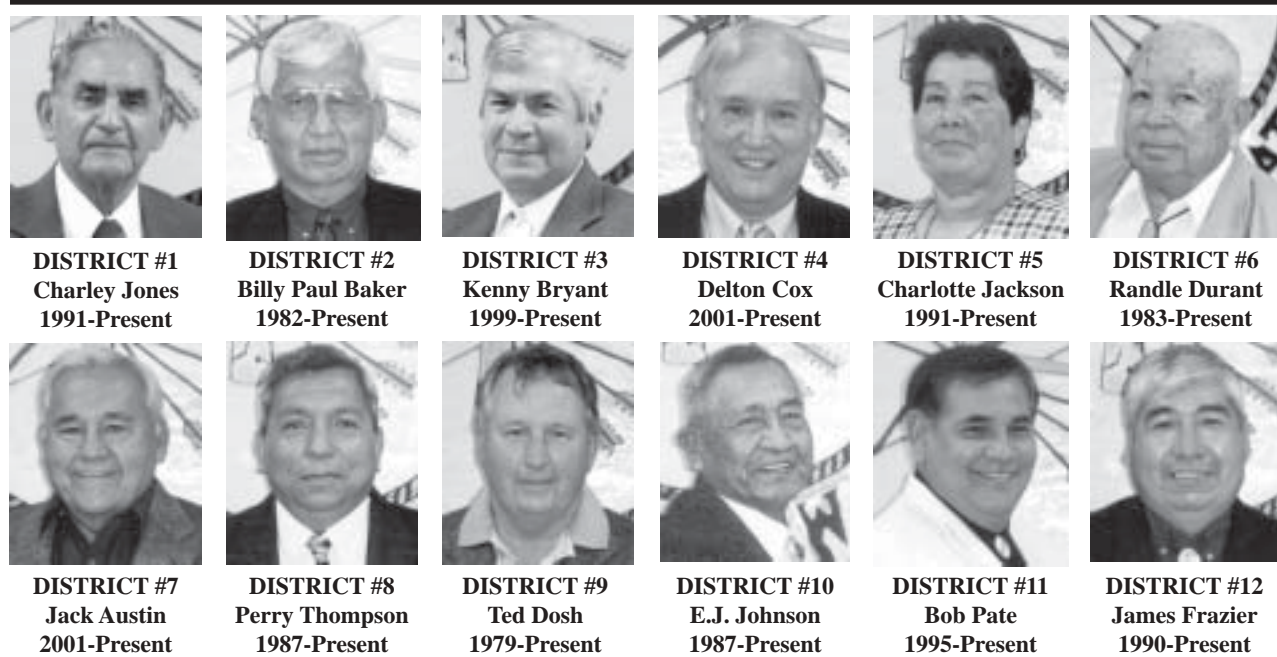


School receives new playground equipment

The elementary school and community of Watson, Oklahoma would like to sincerely thank Kenny Bryant and the Choctaw Nation for the new playground equipment that was donated to the school. The students and community are thoroughly enjoying this wonderful gift. Thanks so much.

The school and community of Watson, Oklahoma

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA TRIBAL COUNCIL



Clarification: A misprint in the 2002 Choctaw Nation Calendar stated Kenny Bryant as a Councilman for District 2. Kenny Bryant is the Councilperson for District 3 and also serves as Speaker of the Council. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Franks elected to professional council

Dennis E. Franks, FACHE, Director Ambulatory Practice/Managed Care, Choctaw Nation Health Service Authority, Talihina, has been elected to the Council of Regents, the legislative body of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Regents serve as the vital link between ACHE and its affiliates by approving governance and membership regulations as well as promoting ACHE programs, services and activities within their respective areas.

Franks will take office at the Council of Regents meeting March 16, during ACHE's annual Congress on Healthcare Management at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. As a regent, Franks will represent ACHE's membership in Oklahoma.

Franks is board certified in healthcare management and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He received his bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater in 1980, a master's degree in business administration from Oklahoma City University in 1984 and a master's degree in healthcare administration from the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1993.



Airline employees bring holiday cheer

The students of Jones Academy were treated to a Christmas party sponsored by employees of American Airlines Cargo division.

The students enjoyed spending an afternoon of playing games and opening presents that were donated by American Airline employees.

Special thanks are given to the airline employees for their generosity towards Jones Academy students during aftermath following the September 11 attacks.

Diabetic Recipe Contest

The Diabetic Recipe Contest is open to everyone. Please submit your Diabetic recipes for the following categories:



Due date: Postmarked by February 15, 2002

Winners will receive Gift Certificates in each of the above four categories, one for most appealing to kids and a grand prize. Award announcements and winners names will be published in the April 2002 BISHINIK.

All recipes received will be compiled by Choctaw Nation for publication of a Diabetic Recipe Cookbook. All proceeds generated will be used to further the education and promotion to fight diabetes.

Diabetic Recipe Contest Entry Form

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone Number _____

Selection of Category (circle below)
A. Bread B. Meat C. Dessert D. Vegetable

Submit in a typed or printed format that includes Name/Title of Recipe, Ingredients Used, Mixing of Ingredients and Baking or Refrigeration Time. Postmark the Recipe by due date, February 15, 2002 to:

**Choctaw Nation Health Care Center
Diabetes Treatment Center
One Choctaw Way
Talihina, OK 74571**

Or submit the Recipe by due date, February 15, 2002 to spasmore@choctawnation.com. For additional information contact Sharon Maddox, Director, at 1-918-567-7000.

Baby Bottle Tooth Decay can ruin your little one's smile

How would you describe a baby's smile? I suppose you might use words like cute, glowing, beautiful or perhaps full of life. When a baby is approximately 7 months of age her/his first teeth begin to show through the gums. It is possible in just a few short years, that once cute smile may become spoiled by tooth decay. Baby Bottle Tooth Decay (also called Nursing Bottle Mouth) is a condition where baby teeth become decayed. This pattern of decay can occur if a child is allowed to do one or more of the following:

1. go to bed with a bottle filled with milk, formula or sweetened drink
2. sleep all night at the breast
3. drink from a bottle throughout the day
4. use a pacifier dipped in sugar or honey

Problems, which may develop from this condition, include pain, eating and speech problems, early tooth loss and crowding of the

adult teeth. The upper front teeth, which are the most visible, are usually the teeth most affected. A child will notice the significant change in her/his appearance, and this may result in a poor self-image.

How can you prevent this from happening to your beautiful baby?

1. Put your baby to bed without a bottle, unless it is filled with unsweetened water
2. Don't lay your baby to sleep at the breast
3. Start teaching your child to drink from a cup about 7 months of age
4. Clean your baby's teeth with a clean soft cloth or an extra soft tooth brush at bedtime
5. Avoid allowing your child to drink sweetened drinks from a bottle throughout the day
6. Schedule your child's first dental visit by age one

Keep your baby's smile beautiful.

| FOOD DISTRIBUTION | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|-----|
| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
| | | | | | 1 Closed | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Closed | 5 Closed | 6 | 7 Stigler 9-2 | 8 Wilburton 9-12 Broken Bow 9-2 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 Coalgate 9-10:30 Atoka 12-2 Hugo 9-12 | 12 | 13 Talihina 9-2 | 14 | 15 Bethel 9-10:30 Smithville 12-2 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Tribal Holiday | 19 Wright City 9-12 | 20 | 21 Poteau (A-H) 9-2 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 Poteau (I-P) 9-2 | 26 | 27 Idabel 9-2 | 28 Poteau (Q-Z) 9-2 | | |

February 2002

Food Distribution Sites

ANTLERS - Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 200 S.W. "O" St.

ATOKA - National Guard Armory.

BETHEL - Choctaw Nation Community Building.

BROKEN BOW - Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center.

COALGATE - Choctaw Community Center.

DURANT - Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr.

HUGO - Housing Authority.

IDABEL - Choctaw Village Shopping Center.

MCALLESTER - Choctaw

Commodity Warehouse, 1212 S. Main.

POTEAU - Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center.

SMITHVILLE - Big Lick Church.

STIGLER - Choctaw Community Building.

TALIHINA - Boys & Girls Club.

WILBURTON - Choctaw Community Building.

WRIGHT CITY - Choctaw Head Start Building.

The Food Distribution Program workers will take a 30 minute lunch break from 11:30

to 12 noon. Please bring boxes

to pick up your commodities.

If you cannot pick up commodities when you are scheduled, please notify the Food Distribution Office at 1-800-522-6170 so that you can be rescheduled to go to Antlers, Durant or McAlester.

All Commodity Warehouses (Antlers, Durant, McAlester) will be open October 8 through October 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

Workshop to aid women in business

The Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity Women's Center is presenting a workshop entitled, "Building Blocks for Growing a Successful Business." The workshop will be from 2 to 4 p.m., February 14, in the Choctaw Nation Conference Room in tribal headquarters, 1408 Chuckwa, Durant.

The workshop is free for any woman who wishes to go into business or needs help with their existing business. Participants will be exposed to business basics such as Planning for Success, Legal Structures, Licensing Requirements, Registering with Governmental Agencies, Tax Considerations, Insurance, Franchising, Basic Record Keeping and Creative Management Techniques.

The Small Business Administration and the private sector fund the OIO Women's Center. Their goal is to assist all women in the state to go into business or if already in business to help them succeed. If you have ever thought you might like to go into business or if you are in business and feel you could use assistance call 329-3737 or 1-800-375-3737 to register. In addition, Business Development Specialists are available at the center in Norman to provide individual assistance, on a limited walk-in basis. Keith Yackeyonny, a Business Development Specialist, is also available at the Durant Tribal Complex every second and fourth Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to provide information, training and counseling services.

Gathering of Nations Tour Trip

It's that time again to prepare for the Gathering of Nations Tour Trip. Hosted by Jasen M. and Betty Baker of Hugo, Oklahoma, the trip will take participants to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the 19th Annual Gathering of Nations Pow Wow.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend first, the Miss Indian World Pageant on the evening of Thursday, April 25. On Friday, April 26, as a new event, participants will be able to tour Sante Fe and its plaza during the day and Pow Wow at night.

On Saturday morning, participants can enjoy a visit to Albuquerque's Old Town Plaza for its vendors and shops, a favorite part of the tour for past participants. The Old Town Plaza is also conveniently located near Albuquerque's Museum of National History. Then it's back for the final night of the Gathering of the Nations Pow Wow and the crowning of Miss Indian World.

The bus will leave Hugo at 3 a.m. Thursday, April 25 for Albuquerque and return to Hugo by late evening, between 9 and 11, on Sunday, April 28. Reservations are now being taken.

Reservation fee for the trip is \$75 per seat taken which includes, if attending, a complimentary one-day pass to the Gathering of the Nations Pow Wow and, if attending, a complimentary ticket to the Miss Indian World Pageant.

Participants will take care of their own eating and motel bills. The motel bill is priced at a special rate and can only be reserved for those paying for the reservation fee. Seats go fast, so make your reservation now! Reservation fee deadline is 5 p.m. on Monday, April 1. No refunds after 5 p.m. Friday, April 12.

To make reservations, call Jasen Baker at 580-286-5058 in the evening or 580-286-6671 during the day or Vivian Baker at 580-317-6856.

Fifth annual United San Antonio Pow Wow

The fifth annual United San Antonio Pow Wow is scheduled for February 16-17 at Aggie Park, 6205 W. Avenue (at Loop 410) in San Antonio. Saturday's events will begin at 11 a.m. with Gourd Dancing. Grand Entry will follow at noon. The evening meal is set for 5 p.m., Gourd Dancing at 6 o'clock and Grand Entry at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, a Native American service will be held at 10 a.m., Gourd Dancing at 11 a.m. and Grand Entry at noon. The Closing song will be at 4 p.m.

Vendors are by invitation only. For more information, please contact Erwin J. De Luna, 2650 W. Mistletoe, San Antonio, TX 78228, 210-736-3792 after 6 p.m.

Choctaw employee takes control of her health

By SHARON MADDOX
 Director of Choctaw Nation
 Diabetes Wellness Center

Crystal Crank, a 20-year-old Choctaw employee of the Eye Clinic at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, has agreed to share her success story to encourage others.

In May 2001, while working in the Diabetes Treatment Center, Crystal had her blood sugar checked. She was all too familiar with the risks of developing diabetes. Both her grandmothers and various aunts and uncles have diabetes.

Crystal's blood sugar was high. After further testing, Crystal was diagnosed with Impaired Glucose Tolerance (IGT). IGT was formerly known as borderline diabetes. People with IGT have higher than normal blood sugars but not high enough to be diabetes.

At first Crystal felt scared and angry. She thought her life would never be the same again.

"I was angry," Crystal states, "because I could not have the foods to eat or the amounts I was used to."

Being scared was her biggest motivator. Crystal had observed what people with diabetes have to deal with from working in the Diabetes Clinic. She did not want to have diabetes and was willing to make changes in her lifestyle to prevent it.

The doctor started Crystal on a 1500-calorie diet. She was also instructed to check her blood sugar on a regular basis. Crystal was already an active person, but to prevent diabetes, she increased her exercise program.

Today Crystal has lost 30 pounds and kept it off. She states she is "more energetic and feel better about myself." Today she

is in control of her blood sugar. She sees the providers in the Diabetes Wellness Center on a regular basis to monitor her progress. She no longer is scared or worried about the problems associated with diabetes.

"This experience has taught me to be more aware of what I eat and to be careful of how much I eat," Crystal says.

If you are reading this story and have the same risk factors Crystal had - overweight, sedentary and family members with diabetes - you too may be at risk for diabetes. Talk with your doctor about testing for diabetes. You may also call the Diabetes Wellness Center at 800-349-7026, ext. 6673 to schedule a screening test. Getting diabetes can be prevented for many people by changing your eating habits and getting regular physical activity.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

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

A Vocational Rehabilitation and Disability Employment Representative will be available at the locations listed above. A representative is available Monday thru Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.

ARE YOU A CAREGIVER?

You are a caregiver if you ...

- Provide assistance with grocery shopping, errands, transport to appointments or paying of bills for older family member
- Provide personal care such as bathing, dressing, toileting for an older family member
- Have made changes in your life to assist with the care of older family member
- You are seeking for information and services to improve the lives of the older family member or yourself

If you answered "yes" to any of the above, you are a CAREGIVER and can obtain help by calling:

**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
 Aging Services
 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2202**

Choctaw Crafts and Books

Located inside the Choctaw Inn in Durant
 P.O. Box 668 - 4202 South Hwy. 69/75 - Durant, OK 74702-0668
 1-888-932-9199 - 1-580-931-9144 - www.choctawcrafts.com

To order, please mail form with a check, money order, over the Internet or call.

Call for a catalog!

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Choctaw establishes OCU scholarship

A member of the Choctaw Nation and former Oklahoma City University star athlete, James "Jim" Wade, has established a \$100,000 scholarship to be awarded to a student-athlete majoring in business. The scholarship is primarily intended to help athletes who need a fifth year of study to complete their degrees.

Now a retired U.S. Air Force brigadier general, Wade originally came to Oklahoma City University after World War II. He excelled in football, basketball and baseball in the late 1940s while earning his degree. With the establishment of this \$100,000 endowed scholarship for student-athletes, Wade is giving back to his alma mater.

A native of Talihina, Wade was a star for the post-World War II OCU football teams from 1946-48, scoring 33 touchdowns in this three-year career. He also started on the baseball team for two years and the basketball team for one season.

Drafted by the National Football League's Los Angeles Rams, Wade played professional football for several years before re-entering the military. He served in Korea and Vietnam, rising to the rank of brigadier general.

Upon retirement from the U.S. Air Force, he continued his involvement with the aircraft industry and served for many years with the Federal Aviation Administration. He has been honored as Outstanding Native Son by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and is a member of the OCU Sports Hall of Fame.

Oklahoma City University is a private, United Methodist, comprehensive university with a liberal arts core curriculum. In a student-centered environment, men and women pursue academic excellence through a rigorous curriculum that focuses on their intellectual, spiritual, moral and physical development to prepare them to become effective leaders in service to their communities.

FSA emergency loans available

Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman has announced that all Oklahoma counties have been included in a natural disaster designation. This declaration was effective October 25, 2001 as a result of the excessive heat and drought experienced during the summer months.

All counties in Oklahoma, except Choctaw and McCurtain counties, have been declared primary counties. This designation gives family sized farm operators the opportunity to apply for Emergency Loans at the applicable county Farm Service Agency office.

The application deadline for the loan program is June 25, 2002. Loans may be made to assist farmers in recovering from both physical and production losses.

To qualify for the loans producers must have suffered losses as a direct result of the disaster, and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere. Approved loans will have an interest rate of 3.75% for the life FSA office, or the FSA office in Durant at 924-4131.

USDA announces sign-up for EQIP

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced a sign-up period for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The sign-up period is February 4 to February 22. Funding is available for producers in a priority area and also non-priority areas. To determine if you are in a priority area or not you may go to the local USDA Service Center located in the county where you live.

The EQIP program is available to landowners to develop conservation plans and enter into 5-10 year contracts that provide incentive payments and cost sharing for approved conservation practices.

Funds available for producers in a non-priority area will address four major natural resource concerns: soil erosion, water quality, grazing lands infested with eastern redcedar and lesser prairie chicken habitat.

The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



NEW "Choctaw Jacks" Children's Book

Third book in a series of five children's books produced by the Choctaw Nation, written by Mary M. Frye, translated to Choctaw Language by Henry Willis and illustrated by Norma Howard. First 1,000 books are NUMBERED COLLECTOR'S ITEMS.

Weight: 1 lb. each \$20.00 each



NEW Choctaw Nation Seal Long-Sleeve Denim Shirt

100% cotton long-sleeve denim shirt with button down collar, left chest pocket. Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large.

Weight: 1 lb. each \$25.00 each



Silver Coins

Silver Coins with the Choctaw Nation Seal on one side and "The End of the Trail" on the other side. Beautiful one ounce solid silver coin.

Weight: 1 oz. each \$20.00 each



NEW Choctaw Nation Seal Jacket

Shell is 100% nylon, lining 75% polyester, 25% rayon; machine washable. Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, X-Large.

Weight: 2 lbs. each \$59.00 each



NEW Choctaw Nation "United We Stand" T-Shirts

- In Youth and Adult Sizes -

In support of our great country, the great United States of America, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has created two commemorative T-shirts. These are a special edition.

• Youth sizes: Small, Medium, Large Weight: 1 lb. each \$10.00 each

• Adult sizes: Small, Medium, Large, X-Large; Weight: 1 lb. each \$15.00 each

Sub-total _____

Shipping price up to 1 pound add \$4.50. Please add \$1.20 for each additional pound thereafter _____
 (example: 3 pounds and 6 ounces will be \$6.90 shipping)

If you have any questions please call and we will be happy to assist you. TOTAL PRICE _____

We would love to mail you one of our free colored catalogs. WE HAVE SLASHED PRICES ON MANY OF OUR ITEMS! Please call for updated prices on our catalog items.

Please complete:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

e-mail address _____

Phone _____

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

Name card is issued in _____

Type of card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discovery) _____

Expiration date on card _____

Card number _____

Signature _____



Jaysen turns three

Jaysen Kyle Quintero turned three years old on December 23. Jaysen is the son of Erasmo and Cindy Quintero of McAlester, Oklahoma. His grandparents are Waylon and Faith Watson of Talihina, Oklahoma.

Jaysen would like to send his Uncle Curtis Watson of Tuba, Arizona a happy birthday also on December 23. We all wish you a happy birthday.

Jaysen – love, your grandpa, grandma, mom, dad, Uncle Richard, Aunt Denise, Uncle Jr., Nashoba and Leayn.

Darrian Johnson celebrates eighth

A special happy birthday to our Choctaw Angel #1, Darrian Jean Johnson Moore of Lemoore, California, who turned eight years old on December 25. We love you, Grandma and Grandpa Boles, Mom, Dad, Jaiden and Todd, Aunt Shi, Uncle Joe Aspen and Jason, Grandpa and Grandpa Johnson, Aunt Julie, Janena, Herb and Cassie.



Rachel is wished a very happy January birthday

Granny Mattie B. Jones of Kiowa, Oklahoma wishes her granddaughter, Rachel, a very happy birthday on January 14. Rachel is a student at Oklahoma State University.

She is the daughter of Ann and Dan Baskin of Durant and has a sister, Crystal Morgan, also of Durant.

Look who's two

Molly Elizabeth Durrence of Hugo, Oklahoma celebrated her second birthday on December 20 with a Powder Puff Girls Party.

Molly is the daughter of Julia and Wayne Durrence of Hugo. Her grandparents are Gladys Wood and the late James "Chick" Wood of Hugo, Linda Standridge of Antlers, Oklahoma and Wayne Durrence, Sr. of Portsmouth, Virginia.



Aspen is three

Happy birthday to our special Choctaw Angel #2, Aspen Claire Johnson of Coalinga, California. Aspen turned three years old.

We love you - Grandma and Grandpa Boles, Mom, Dad and Uncle Jason, Aunt Net, Uncle Todd, Darrian, Jaiden and Todd.

Happy birthday Monica and Anna!



Best wishes to sisters Monica and Anna LeFlore. Monica was six years old on November 17 and Anna turned ten on December 12.



Both Monica and Anna attend Spanish Immersion at Cesar Chavez Elementary School in Davis, California. Older sister Adrienne Cady turned 17 earlier in the year and reports she enjoys helping to drive the girls around town to their many activities.

The girls' parents are Claire and Rick LeFlore of Davis. Rick is a descendant of Lydia Leflore of Corvallis, Oregon and the late Frank LeFlore, originally from Kiowa, Oklahoma. Rick's sisters, DiAnn and Jean, live with their families in Corvallis and Las Vegas, Nevada, respectively.



Nancy Poole celebrates first birthday

We would like to wish a very belated happy first birthday to Nancy Joyce Poole. Nancy's birthday is September 24.

With all our love – Mom, Dad, Natascha and Taylor.

Happy birthday to Berg family members

Happy birthday wishes go out to Mrs. A.L. Berg of Tulsa who turned 78 years old on January 7. Happy birthday also to James S. Berg of Tulsa, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Berg, who turned 49 on January 15.

Jaylen turns six

Jaylen Ryan Richards turned six years old on January 8. He graduated Choctaw Nation Head Start last year and now attends Dierks Elementary in Broken Bow where he is in Kindergarten.

Jaylen is the son of Christy Harley of Broken Bow. His grandparents include Billy and Phebe Harley of Broken Bow.

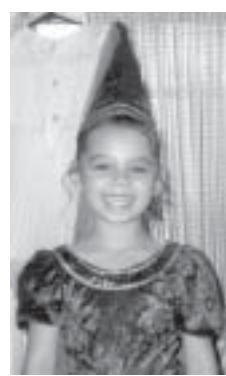
Happy birthday wishes are sent to Jaylen from his two sisters, Shayla and Ayliah Richards; cousins, Chelsey and Ronica Standridge, and Auntie and Uncle, Crystal Harley and Kenny Wallace. We love you very much!



Happy birthday wishes for Sydney and David



Dawn and Pres Miller would like to wish Sydney Owens and her dad, David Owens, very happy birthdays. Sydney turned six and David turned 32, both on January 3.



Look who's eleven years old!

Kyle Todd White Buffalo turned eleven years old on January 22. Kyle attends Latta Public School in Ada, Oklahoma. He says "Hello!" to all of his friends at Latta.

Kyle is the son of Rochelle Jr. and June White Buffalo. He has a sister, Shana. His grandparents are the late Gaston and Annabelle Hickman of Roff, Oklahoma and Rochelle and Joy White Buffalo of Stratford, Oklahoma.

Kyle also attends Sandy Hill Baptist Church in Stratford.

His Dad, Mom and Shana would like to wish him a very happy birthday.



Happy seventh birthday!

Kendra T. Elaine Beavers will celebrate her seventh birthday on January 26 in Broken Bow.

She is the daughter of Lynn Beavers of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Melodie Beavers of Broken Bow.

Kendra is an honor roll student at Dierks Elementary. She loves camping, fishing, skating and riding horses.

Her Papa and Gran Moore want to wish Kendra a very happy day as well as her three big brothers, John of Hartshorne, Oklahoma, Sean of Mary, Louisiana and Kyle of Broken Bow. Her special friend and card playing buddy, Calvin Middlebrook, wishes her a happy day, too!

Happy birthday!

Laura Carney was born December 26, 1912 in Beachton, Oklahoma, the eldest of seven children born to Sine and Elise Cusher. Laura and Edmond Carney were married in 1937 and resided in Smithville, Oklahoma. Their love bloomed with two children, Leila Gene Spradlin of Longview, Texas and Elton Carney of Smithville. Laura's two children blossomed into eight grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Laura Carney has been a devoted lifelong member of Big Lick Presbyterian Church in Smithville.

Happy birthday, Laura, and thank you for being a wonderful role model, not only for your family, but also for everyone you have ever met. Ms. Carney has never met a stranger, so the world has been truly blessed with her presence. We all love you.



Happy 23rd, Crystal

Crystal Gwen Harley celebrated her 23rd birthday on December 8. Wishing her a happy birthday are her two daughters, Chelsey and Ronica Harley, and parents, Billy and Phebe Harley, all of Broken Bow. Also wishing her a happy birthday are Shayla, Jaylen and Ayliah Richards, cousin Lorinda, and brother and sister, Kenny Wallace and Christy Harley.

Four celebrate birthdays

Mother and daughter, Crystal and Hallie Battiest celebrated December birthdays. Crystal turned 22 on December 20 and Hallie was four on the 11th. Crystal is the daughter of Serena Battiest and Presley Battiest of Wright City, Oklahoma. Hallie is their granddaughter.

Crystal would like to wish her nieces, Hillary and Brandy Baker, happy birthdays. Brandy celebrated her birthday on December 8. She was three years old. Hillary celebrated her sixth birthday on January 3. They are the daughters of Patrick and Cathy Baker of Elton, Louisiana. Their grandparents are Cleason Jr. and Bernita Baker of Elton and Presley Battiest and Serena Battiest of Wright City.



Look who's ten!

Summer Gibson turned ten years old on January 2. She is the daughter of Stacey Gibson and the granddaughter of Naomi Gibson and the late Simon Gibson.

Summer attends Greenwood Elementary where she is an honor student. Her hobbies include playing soccer, softball and cheerleading. She is also CPR certified and helps to raise funds for her Girl Scout troop. She plans to be a marine biologist when she grows up. Her family is extremely proud of Summer and hopes everyone will join them in wishing her a happy birthday.

Happy 14th

Dalilah Hilton turned 14 years old on December 16.

Dalilah attends school at Talihina Junior High in Talihina, Oklahoma. She enjoys basketball and hanging out with her friends.

Dalilah's parents are Charles and Ava Hilton of Tuskahoma. Her grandparents are Wilson and Deloris Taylor of Sobol, Oklahoma and Frieda Hilton of Broken Bow, Oklahoma.



Fred celebrates January birthday

Mattie B. Jones of Kiowa, Oklahoma wishes her son, Fred Warden, a happy birthday on January 9!



Happy birthday Josephine!

Happy birthday to Josephine Rose Gilmore who turned two years old on December 30!

Ambre turns two!

Ambre Shae Hobbs turned two years old on December 25. Ambre is the daughter of Timmi Hobbs of Atoka, Oklahoma. Her grandparents are Gary and Diane Taylor of Seneca, Missouri. Great-grandparents include Adam Betsey of Durant, Oklahoma.

We would also like to wish Mallory Loftin a happy third birthday on December 4.



Happy 18th!

We would like to wish Crystal Hampton a happy 18th birthday on December 10. She is a senior at Boswell High School.

Crystal is the daughter of Ron and Bunny Hampton and Justin and Pam Beddo, all of Boswell. She is also the granddaughter of Grace Hampton and Mary Sue Owen of Boswell.

We all wish you a happy birthday, sweetheart.

December birthdays

Paul Riddle and son Paul, Jr. both celebrated birthdays in December. Dad turned 43 on December 20 and son was one year old on December 18.

Paul, Jr. is the grandson of the late Coleman H. Riddle of Bennington, Oklahoma and the late Duane A. Grable of the Lakota Sioux, Kadoka, South Dakota.

Happy birthday!



Waylon is one

Lots of friends, great aunts and uncles and cousins helped Waylon RyLee Davis celebrate his first birthday on November 20. He is the son of Wesley and Branda Davis of Bethel, Oklahoma. Grandparents are James and Tilda Davis of Bethel and Terry and Sandra Twaddle of Yanush, Oklahoma. Waylon is the great-grandson of Jessie Norris and Jick Norris, both of Clayton, Oklahoma and Larry Burlison of Yanush. He has an Uncle Shane and Uncle Chad Twaddle of Yanush and Uncle David Davis of Bethel. Happy birthday, Waylon!

Sweet 16

Chipper Jones wants to wish his Aunt Melissa Jones a happy birthday. She turned 16 on January 21. Melissa is the daughter of Albert Jones of Talihina, Oklahoma. She is the granddaughter of Joyce Jones of Talihina and the late Wilburn Jones of Moyers, Oklahoma. Melissa has two sisters, Stephanie and Jennifer Jones of Talihina, and two uncles, Wilburn Jones Sr. and Darrin Jones of Talihina.



Happy tenth birthday, AlyxMarie!

Happy tenth to AlyxMarie who celebrated her birthday with family and friends on December 9. AlyxMarie is in the fourth grade at Kingswood Elementary in Surprise, Arizona. She's a talented artist, loves to sing, and ride horses. She loved visiting Oklahoma this past summer and is very proud of her Indian heritage.

Proud parents Billy and Rhonda Kleinsteiber and little brother, Koal, all reside in Surprise. Grandparents are Laman and Donna Pope of Phoenix, Arizona, "Nana" Laverne Cummings of Green Valley, Arizona and Grandpa Bill Kleinsteiber of Butternut, Wisconsin. AlyxMarie's Great-Grandpa is Bill Wocelka of St. Anthony, Idaho.



Rachel, Cody and Sara celebrate birthdays

Happy birthdays wishes are sent to the son and daughter of Julie Heady and Dwayne Taylor of Hugo, Oklahoma

Rachel Ann turned seven on November 8 and Cody Dwayne turned ten on January 7.

Cody and Rachel's cousin, Sara Frances Webb, turned three years old on December 3.

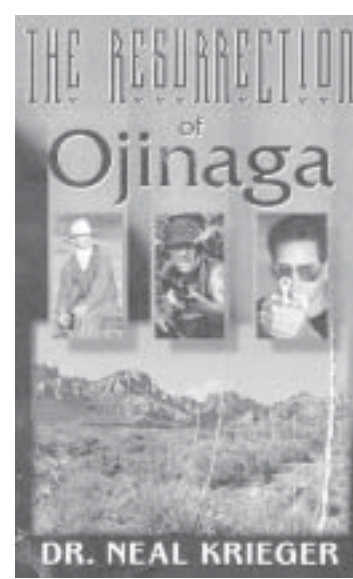
Cody, Rachel and Sara's grandparents are Theda and Dodson Lamb of Hugo and William and Judy Taylor of Soper, Oklahoma.

Cody and Rachel's maternal grandparents are Clifford and Judy Heady of Sawyer, Oklahoma.

Sara's paternal grandparents are Thomas and Janis Webb of Oklahoma City and the late Peggy and Frank Robinson of Paden, Oklahoma.

Durant author pens tale of action and adventure

Tribe's Education Foundation to benefit from sale of novel



"The Resurrection of Ojinaga," by Dr. Neal Krieger of Durant, Oklahoma, is a novel centered around Mexican immigrant Hank Delgado. In June of 1962, 13-year-old Enrique Rodriguez is forced to flee from Mexico after discovering his murdered family. He knows a Mexican drug lord is responsible for their deaths and changes his name in fear for his own life.

Hank finds work on the Flying M ranch near Marfa, Texas following a grueling horseback ride across the Chihuahuan desert. Eventually, Hank earns his U.S. citizenship and is sent to Vietnam after his high school graduation. After his tour is finished, Hank returns to the Big Bend region of Texas, vowing to get his revenge against the drug lord who changed his life forever.

"The Resurrection of Ojinaga" is a tribute to U.S. drug enforcement personnel who battle the flow of illegal drugs from Mexico, the men and women who served in Vietnam and those Mexican immigrants who have struggled to become effective citizens of our country.

"I have had the privilege of working as an optometrist with the Choctaw Nation for eleven years," Dr. Krieger said. "During that time, I have enjoyed meeting many people associated with the EDS and EPS programs.

"After meeting with Chief Greg Pyle and Diane Perrin, we have come to an agreement to market the book through the BISHINIK. In return, the Choctaw Nation will receive \$2 per book which will be donated to the Choctaw Educational Fund."



About the author
Neal Krieger's grassroots beginnings in Southwestern Oklahoma centered around farming, ranching and athletics. After graduation from Hobart High School, he attended Colorado State University on a wrestling scholarship. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University and later his Doctorate from Northeastern State University College of Optometry. He maintains a private practice in Durant, Oklahoma.

- Order Form -

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

Qty _____ "The Resurrection of Ojinaga" at \$13.95 each _____
(Oklahoma residents only - add 7.5% sales tax) _____
Shipping @ \$4.00 each _____
Grand Total _____

We will not accept cash or checks

Payment method: Money order enclosed
 Discover Card MasterCard VISA

Card number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

Please mail order form to:
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Attn: Diane Perrin
P.O. Drawer 1210
Durant, OK 74702

Nursery News

Kelli Kaye Hilton

Kelli Kaye Hilton was born November 13, 2001. She weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces. Proud parents are Charles Hilton, Jr. and Michelle Joiner.



Kelli's grandparents are Charles and Ava Hilton of Muskahoma, Oklahoma and Mike Joiner and the late Kelly Petty of Idabel, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Wilson and Deloris Taylor of Sobol, Oklahoma, Frieda Hilton and the late Alvin Hilton of Broken Bow, Lloyd and Marie Thompson and Edna Joiner and the late Cecil Joiner, all of Idabel. Great-great-grandparents are Ida Taylor of Sobol and Josie Joiner of Idabel.

Ryley Neoma Labor

Jakob Labor of Wilburton, Oklahoma would like to announce the birth of his baby sister, Ryley Neoma Labor.



She was born at 1:02 a.m. on October 1, 2001 at Eastern Oklahoma Medical Center in Poteau, Oklahoma. She weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Proud parents are Bret and Jennifer Labor of Wilburton. Grandparents are Lynn and Jimmy Gammons of Wilburton, Tim Shirley of Bethany, Missouri and Kathy Sparling of Lancaster, California.

Jamie Ruth Isaac

Darrol and Melody Isaac of Lancaster, Wisconsin would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Jamie Ruth Isaac, born on July 31, 2001 in Platteville, Wisconsin. Jamie weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 18 inches long.



Proud grandparents are Dr. Rev. James Isaac and Lola Isaac of Poplar, Montana and great-great-aunt is Naomi Box of Madill, Oklahoma.

Jamie has a two-year-old brother, Judias Tushka Isaac.

Christiawna Renee Caraway

Proud parents Chris and Shawna Caraway of Nashoba, Oklahoma would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Christiawna Renee Caraway. Christiawna was born at 4:15 p.m. December 6 at Talihina, weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 19 inches long.



Grandparents are Ray and Trudy Caraway of Nashoba, John and Lora Willaby of Harrison, Arkansas and Ronnie and Mary Steudeman of Clayton, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents include Ethel McKee of Hugo, Oklahoma.

James Dale Reeves

Geary and Misty Reeves of Arpear, Oklahoma would like to announce the birth of their second son, James Dale "Jimmy" Reeves was born at 8:55 p.m. November 20, 2001 at McAlester Regional Health Center in McAlester. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20.5 inches long.



Jimmy's grandparents are Kathy Smith of Haywood and the late Randy Smith and Ruthie Reeves of Paris, Texas and the late Milton D. Reeves.

Great-grandparents are W.C and Monti Wallace of Haywood and the late Carl C. Smith. His siblings include two-year-old Randall David "Randy" Reeves, Michael Thomas Kerby, 23, of Hammond, Louisiana and David Lee Reeves, 21, of Loranger, Louisiana.

Joseph Wilmer Kemp

Kimberly Dawn Kemp would like to introduce her new little brother, Joseph Wilmer Kemp. He was born September 19, 2001 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. Parents are Warren Kemp of Ft. Towson, Oklahoma and Tammy Kemp of Antlers, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Wilmer and Lila Kemp of Ft. Towson.



Sarah Mecom president of FKHS Native American Club and Title IX

The Eighth Annual Coffeyville Intertribal Pow Wow and Indian Art Market was held recently at the Field Kindley High School gymnasium to honor FKHS seniors and to celebrate the Native American culture.



Sarah Mecom, a Choctaw, is president of the FKHS Native American Club and Title IX Indian Education Project which sponsored the event.

Harrison performs in Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas

John Harrison, a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association, was selected to perform at the prestigious Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada on Saturday, December 15.

John is a contract act specialist who entertains crowds between rodeo events with Roman riding, trick roping, and trick riding. Entertaining audiences with fast, colorful Roman riding is John's delight as he stands on small leather pads on two individual horses working as a team, freely running through a series of figure eights, reverses, split flaming fire stakes, and for the grand finale he jumps the horses through a flaming horseshoe of fire. His trick riding is a crowd favorite, where he does Pony Express vaults, shoulder stands, neck splits and under the neck, all while riding a runaway horse around the arena.



He became a member of the PRCA in 1999. He has performed coast to coast and border to border at rodeos, horse shows, World Pinto Show, Equitana West, NFR, state fairs and birthday parties.

John is the 23-year-old son of Wiley and Donna Harrison and the grandson of the late World Champion Bull Rider, Freckles Brown. The Harrisons have a small working ranch near Soper, Oklahoma. At the age of six, John received his first trick riding lesson, after a famous artist performed in a nearby rodeo. She inspired John and since he has trained and performed with some of the best in the world.

Wiley taught him to trick rope, practicing in the family dining room, where missing pieces of tile and grout are the reminders of hours father and son spent evening and rain outs. As a third generation cowboy, John is consummate professional. It's part of his heritage that he demands perfection of himself and his animals. John is a certified Equine Massage Therapist. This training aids him in helping his and many other horses to feel better and better perform their roles in rodeo. He massages many calf roping and barrel racing horses, specializing the overworked muscles of each.

Belated happy birthday wishes



Happy birthday to Max Alexander who turned 12 years old in September and Rylee Martinez who celebrated his fifth birthday in December.

They are the sons of Terri Taylor and the grandsons of Lonzo and Nancy Wallace, all of Sherman, Texas. Great-grandparents include Amos Taylor of Ardmore, Oklahoma and the late Agnes Taylor.



Klein Oilers teammates do super job

Congratulations to Chance Klippstein of Spring, Texas and Trevor Smith of Tomball, Texas for an outstanding job with the Klein Oilers Football organization. With a record of 35 wins and one loss, two Super Bowl championships (1999 and 2000) and Super Bowl runner-up in 2001. Both boys did a super job on the offense and defense.



Chance is the son of Perry and Mary Klippstein and the grandson of Joe Ella Saenz of Frederick, Oklahoma. Trevor is the son of Charles and Terry Smith and the grandson of Charles and Mary Smith of Missouri City, Kansas.

Caddells celebrate 50th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Caddell, Jr. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 22, 2001. Mr. Caddell is the son of an original enrollee, Anna Belle Adams, Caddell.



Helping them celebrate were their two daughters, Yvonne Kishimoto and Karen Sisk; son, Stephen Caddell, and five grandchildren.

O'Roark, Plunkett exchange vows



Mistie Dawn O'Roark and Hoyt Ray Plunkett, Jr. were married on September 22, 2001 at the home of the groom's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Harrod of Roland, Arkansas.

Grandmothers of the bride are Lois O'Roark of Wichita Falls, Texas and Kay King of Nocona. The couple reside in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Parents of the bride are Terry O'Roark of Nocona, Texas and Tammy Divins of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The groom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Harrod of Cabot, Arkansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Plunkett, Jr. would like to thank all of those who attended their special day and helped make it such a wonderful time.

Look who's seven!

Justin Lucas Graham turned seven years old on December 15. Justin is the son of Shreda Graham of Caney, Oklahoma and James Graham of Bokchito, Oklahoma. His grandparents are Hubert and Ladell Krebs of Boswell, Oklahoma, Bobby and Fran Williams of Caney and Patsy Graham and the late Richard Graham of Bokchito. Great-grandparents are Kenneth and Ima Jean Krebs of Bells, Texas.



Justin is a first grade student in Mrs. Harbin's class at Caney Elementary School. His whole family would like to wish him a happy birthday.

Happy birthday to Dezmond Barnes



Dezmond Barnes turned eight years on December 14. He attends school at Chisum Elementary in Paris, Texas.

Dezmond's parents are Greg and Shirley Barnes of Paris. His grandparents are Toby and Katy Wilson of Pattonville, Joyce Barnes of Paris and Gene Barnes.

Bud Isaac Duer

Bud Isaac Duer, 89, of Alexander, Arkansas passed away on December 2, 2001.

He was a World War II veteran and a tribal member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents, original enrollees Ephriam "Buck" Duer and Mary Jane Pate Duer; four sisters, Ada Packer, Irene Dills, May Reynolds and Janie Frye James, and one brother, Willie Duer.

Survivors include Bud's loving wife of 64 years, Loma Birch Duer; four daughters, Mary Ann McCoskey, Bonnie Gail Walker, Judy Dixon and Sandra Knox; four sons, Buddy Paul, Mark, Tommy and Robert Duer; 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Bud was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather and will be greatly missed.



Gena Marie Stanley

Gena Marie Stanley, 30, of Durant, Oklahoma passed away Monday, December 17, 2001 at Wilson N. Jones Hospital in Sherman, Texas. She was born September 21, 1971 in Durant.

Gena attended school in Caddo and was a 1989 graduate of Caddo High School. She attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University majoring in business accounting for four years. She had been employed at Choctaw Nation since 1993. She was raised in Folsom and had lived in Bryan County all of her life. She was a member of Durant Partners in Education.

Her grandparents, J.T. and Betty Stanley and Effie Behrens, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her parents, Ethel and Eddie Ervin of Caddo and Hubert Stanley of Folsom; sisters, Carie Dill and husband, Paul, of Bokchito and Kelli Stanley of Folsom; niece and nephew, Ashlyn and Zachary Dill, of Bokchito; grandfather, John Behrens, of Caddo, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who loved her dearly.



Joe King Jones

Joe King Jones of Richardson, Texas passed away July 6, 2000. He was born July 9, 1918.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Johnanna W. Jones of Richardson; son, Gary K. Jones of Virginia; two daughters, Julia Jones of Richardson and Joanna Jones of Irving, Texas; five grandchildren; a brother, A.C. Jones of Van Nuys, California, and several nieces and nephews.



Vann Potts

Vann Potts, 75, of Savanna, Oklahoma passed away Sunday, June 17, 2001 at McAlester Regional Health Center. He was born March 10, 1926 in Cement, the son of W.A. and Mona Cooley Potts. He grew up and attended schools in the Buffalo Valley area.

He served in the United States Navy during World War II and spent much of that time in the Philippines. He began working for Northern Natural Gas Company in Kansas. Vann was transferred to Omaha, Nebraska and later retired after 33 years of service with the gas company which is now known as Enron. He married Tommye Smart on July 17, 1875 in Omaha.

Vann was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and was a honorary member of the Hillcrest Baptist Church of McAlester.

Survivors include his wife, Tommye Potts of the home; a son, Kevin Potts, Omaha; a stepdaughter and her spouse, Linda and Charlie Light of Cleveland; three grandchildren, Lanet Collier, Lonny Collier and Luann Collier; two brothers, Grady Potts of McAlester and Gene Potts of Great Bend, Kansas, and a sister, Velda Maynard of Euless, Texas.

A.E. Folsom

A.E. Folsom, 73, passed away January 12, 2002 in Plano, Texas. He was born on February 6, 1928 to Anus and Velma Folsom who preceded him in death.

A.E. was a business owner of a rental center and in his spare time he was a pilot who loved to fly. He was a proud 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge and was a member of the Eastern Star. Mr. Folsom enjoyed coaching Pee-Wee, Little League, Pony, Junior and Senior baseball. He was also a minor league baseball player. He will be missed dearly by his loving family and friends.

Survivors include his loving wife of 54 years, Marjorie Beth Folsom; daughter, Donna Folsom; son, Rodney Folsom, and cousin, Roy Folsom of Oklahoma.

Gabriel Micheal (Rawls) Morman

Gabriel Micheal (Rawls) Morman, 2, passed away Saturday, November 10, 2001. He was born October 13, 1999 in Poteau, Oklahoma. He attended the Church of The Rock in Wilburton, Oklahoma.

Gabriel was preceded in death by his mother, Kizzie Morman; maternal grandfather, David Alan Morman; maternal great-grandfather, George Crims, and paternal great-grandfather, Joseph Homer.

Survivors include his father and stepmother, Christopher and Brandie Rawls of Ada, Oklahoma; four brothers, Daniel Anderson, Danny Anderson, Mathew Maywald and Dillan Morman, all of the home; a stepbrother, Josh Ford of Quinton, Oklahoma; two stepsisters, Samantha Ford and Jessie Ford, both of Quinton; grandparents, Norma Jean Sparks and Glenn Rawls, both of Wilburton, and Bernice Homer and George Clark, both of Red Oak; great-grandparents, Melvin Sparks, Susie Crims and Julie Homer, all of McAlester, Oklahoma, Louise Puckett of Villarica, Georgia; great-great-grandmother, Lillie Crims of Talihina; several aunts and uncles and a host of friends.



Doris Thomas Loftin

Long-time civic and community leader Doris Thomas Loftin of Idabel, Oklahoma died Monday, October 29, 2001 in a Texarkana hospital after an extended illness. She was born October 25, 1915 at Kennedy, Oklahoma, the daughter of Sam Thomas and Florence McAlvain Thomas, an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation.

Doris Loftin spent her childhood years in Sprio, Wister, and Valliant, Oklahoma, graduating from Valliant, High School in 1934. After attending Tulsa Business College, she married attorney Wayland Childers of Antlers, Oklahoma. Childers died in 1948. She then married Ret. Lt. Col. W.A. ("Bill") Loftin, Jr. of Idabel, who died in 1969.

Doris was a charter member of the Idabel Country Club. She was a licensed real estate broker, and served as a court reporter under E.P. Sneed at McCurtain County Courthouse. She was employed by the Department of Human Services prior to her long-time association with the Idabel National Bank. She served many years as Chairman of the McCurtain County Democratic Party, and was an administrator at the State Capitol for State Senator Rex Chandler during his term of office.

She enjoyed and spent many hours bowling, playing golf, fishing, and playing the piano. She loved people.

Survivors include one son, Billy Sam Loftin, Idabel; three daughters and one son in law, Mary Ann Childers, Nancy Childers, Cathy and Warren Davis, all of Idabel; five grandchildren, Brad Coleman, Susan Shelley, Jay Brian Davis, Kyle Davis, and Cody Loftin; three great-grandchildren, Robert Levi Coleman, Amber and Suni Shelley; one sister and brother in law, Lucille and Odell Blackard of Valliant; one niece, Jan Thomas Smith of Columbia, MO; and one nephew, Joe Thomas Blackard of Idabel.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands; a brother and sister in law, Denver and Doris Clarkson Thomas; and a nephew, Kenneth Clarkson Thomas.



Jonas Benson Thompson, Jr.

Jonas Benson Thompson, Jr., 54, of Talihina, Oklahoma passed away December 23, 2001 at Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born on February 20, 1947 in Talihina.

Survivors include three sisters, two brothers, numerous nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives.

Mary Lea Spain

Mary Lea Spain, 77, passed away December 18, 2001. She was born August 2, 1924 in Alford, Texas. Mary's father was a minister and moved the family to Duncan, Oklahoma when she was about 16 years old.

She married Claude Spain on August 31, 1942. They were married for 59 years and were separated only once for 28 months when Claude was wounded and in the hospital during World War II.

Mary worked for Dr. Garland Lange for 26 years.

Survivors include a daughter, Sandra Sue Spain of Midland, Texas; two sons, Jesse Don Spain of Midland and Carey Gill Spain of Claremont, New Jersey; a grandchild, Tauni Spain, and two children they have raised since they were one and two years old, Marlene and Steven Spain.

Frank Charles Stanley

Frank Charles Stanley, 74, passed away December 17, 2001 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born May 28, 1929 in Haileyville, Oklahoma.

Frank was a civil servant at Shepard Air Force Base for 17 years, a musician for 17 years and a truck driver for 10 years.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of over 50 years, Lorene Stanley.

Survivors include daughters, Judy Adair of Hartshorne, Oklahoma and Kathy Dodson of Norman; a brother, Richard Stanley of Hartshorne; nine grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Winona Sue Graham

Winona Sue Graham, 69, of Utica, Oklahoma passed away Sunday, November 25, 2001 at her home. The daughter of Hugh Lee and Elizabeth (Martin) Beal, she was born January 2, 1932 in Utica. She attended Utica Schools and lived in Bryan County all of her life. Graham retired after working for Levi Strauss and Johnson and Johnson. She also worked as a laborer and machine operator for U.S. Motors. She was a member of Utica Baptist Church.

She married Jimmie A. Graham on November 15, 1947 in Denison, Texas.

Her parents; sister, Euda Rose; brother, Doffy Beal, and an infant son preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband of the home; daughters, Linda McGehee of Durant, Betty Mitchell and husband, Bob, of Grand Prairie, Texas; Shelia Swan of Utica; twin sister, Wanda Lou Russell and husband, Wesley, of Utica; brother, Garland Beal and wife, Sue, of Utica; grandson, Larry Gene Mitchell of Grand Prairie; granddaughters, Stacy Chreene and husband, Chad, Kimberly Squenz and husband, Lewis, Amy Mitchell and Pedro Hernandez, all of Grand Prairie; nephew, Larry Russell and wife, Donna, of Utica; numerous other relatives and many dear and loved friends.

Nathan Heath Rodgers

Nathan Heath Rodgers, 21, passed away December 29, 2001. He was born June 12, 1980.

Survivors include his parents, Connie and Ronnie Ellison of Duncan and Jerry and Brenda Rodgers of Chickasha; siblings, Tisha Garcia, Krayton Rodgers, Tessica, Derrick Ellison, Carmalita Trammell, Harve Lumpkin, James, Michelle Christopher, Candace Marker, Shonda and Evan Ellison; grandparents, Oleta Baxter of Duncan and Carl Grissom of Stonewall.

Grandparents preceding him in death were Charles Rodgers and Patricia Allred.



Ruth Ferrante

Ruth Helen Pickens Ferrante, 78, of Florence, Arizona passed away December 21, 2001. She was born December 31, 1922 at Weathers, Oklahoma to Louise and Isom Pickens. She spent her childhood in Jackfork, Oklahoma.

Ruth attended elementary school at Wheelock Academy at Miller-ton, Oklahoma, graduated from high school at Chilocco and from Haskell Institute Business College at Lawrence, Kansas in 1943. She went to work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs soon after and retired after 30 years of service as a personnel specialist.

Survivors include her husband, Charles Ferrante; son, Robert C. Ferrante and wife, Jodicia; two grandchildren, Samantha and Sierra, all of Northridge, California; a sister, Pearl Gallagher of Aurora, Colorado; brother, Otis Fox of Hartshorne, Oklahoma; two aunts, Helen Anderson of Hartshorne and Thelma Anderson Scott of Rancho Palos Verdes, California; nieces, Tresha Melrose of Louisville, Colorado and Lisa Fox and Mary Fox, and two nephews, Otis Fox, Jr. and Donald Ray Fox of Riverside, California.

Lou "Granny" Leflore Maddux

Lou "Granny" Leflore Maddux, 95, of Oklahoma City, passed away December 31, 1999. She was born April 28 in Leflore, Oklahoma to Roberta and Mack Leflore, original enrollees in the Choctaw Nation.

Lou was also an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation and was extremely proud of her Choctaw heritage. She was more than just a stay-at-home mother and homemaker. She was dedicated to the good Lord all of her life and attended Southwest Free Will Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. She married Ira E. Maddux and to that union three daughters were born. Lou enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, cooking big meals for no reason and reading her box of cards from family and friends she had received throughout the years.

Lou was preceded in death by her parents, all of her siblings and two sons-in-law.

Survivors include her three daughters, Mary Sue Puckett, Dorothea Gasseur, Patricia Smith and husband, Robert, all of Oklahoma City; five grandchildren, Linda Rawlins, Susan Henderson and husband, Rick, and Debbie Allen, all of Oklahoma City, Bob Smith and wife, Pauline, of Eufaula, Oklahoma and Terry Hilprecht and husband, Carl, of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania; eight great-grandchildren, Miranda Rawlins, Jonathan Henderson, Tommi Su Allan and Scott Smith, all of Oklahoma City, Kristen Renfro and husband, Denver, of Rogers, Arkansas, Timmy Smith and wife, Karen, of Flower Mound, Texas, Tammy Brackeen and husband, Jimmy, of Marlow, Oklahoma and London Hilprecht of Glen Mills; eight great-great-grandchildren, Jenna and Scotty Smith of Oklahoma City, Ashley Knowles and Josh and Austin Brackeen of Marlow, TJ and Jesse Smith of Flower Mound and Katherine Renfro of Rogers and many more family and friends who loved and miss her very much.



Merrilyn Pilkinton Richardson

Merrilyn Jean Pilkinton Richardson, 48, of Marshall passed away December 12, 2001 at Marshall Regional Medical Center. Born May 10, 1953 in Cottonwood Point, Missouri, she was a daughter of Charles Pilkinton, Sr. and Ruth Jean Ludlow Pilkinton. She was a homemaker.

A brother, Ronnie Pilkinton, and her father, Charles Pilkinton, Sr., preceded her in death.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Richardson; a son, John Drawhorn; a daughter, Tracy Drawhorn; a stepdaughter, Bobbi Mace; her mother, Ruth Jean Pilkinton; four sisters, Betty Ruth West of Dallas, Texas, Georgia Huffman of Garland, Texas, Loretta Larch of Richardson, Texas and Charlotte Baker of Durant, Oklahoma, and four brothers, Charles Pilkinton, Jr., Daniel Pilkinton and Grady Pilkinton, all of Durant, and David Pilkinton of Garland.



David Lawrence Wall

David Lawrence Wall, 82, of Talihina, Oklahoma passed away on December 1, 2001 at the Talihina Manor Nursing Home. He was born on September 22, 1919 at Albion, Oklahoma to Thomas H. Wall and Allie (Potts) Wall, both original enrollees.

Dave was an avid horseman who lived in the Talihina and Whitesboro area all of his life and loved to ride in the mountains. He always had a smile for everyone and would lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas H. Wall and Allie Wall; three brothers, six sisters and a son, Jerry.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Carol and Joe Cole of Reno, Nevada and Lou and Ron Koehler of Cibola, Texas; six sons and four daughters-in-law, David and Margaret Wall of Dallas, Texas, Ricky and Shirley Wall of Gun Barrel City, Texas, George and Sabrina Wall of Anna, Texas, Drew and Beth Wall of Red Oak, Texas, Buddy Wall of Springdale, Arkansas and Bobby Wall of Sacramento, California; nine grandchildren, Rebecca, Cathy, Terry, Christie, Clayton, Tammy, Patsy, Buddy Jr. and Teddy; eight great-grandchildren, Kevin, Grayson, Aspy, David, Gracie, Stacie, Jerry Jr. and Sara; three sisters and a brother-in-law, George and Zora First of Tuskahoma, Oklahoma, Dee Tidwell of Honobia, Oklahoma and Bessie Wall of Talihina, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend a special "Thank You" to the staff of the Talihina Manor Nursing Home and the Choctaw Nation Health Care for all of their care and support.

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inspired an individual or a community. Presley Byington, a firefighter, was nominated last spring by Dona Henderson. Her essay reads as follows: "Presley is a Professional Wildland Firefighter. He was injured in August 2000 fighting a wildland fire near Thermopolis, Wyoming. He recovered, but unfortunately his partner, Jim Burnett, did not.

"He honors his Native American heritage by carving Choctaw Courting Flutes. Because of the injuries he received, it was doubtful he could still play his beautiful flutes. Thankfully, he has recovered enough to make the flutes sing.

"He is one of those people that always "steps up to the plate." We ask this (the honor of him being a torchbearer) to show him how much we appreciate his dedication and to acknowledge what it has cost him personally."

The Olympic Flame, lit in Olympia, Greece before traveling to Atlanta, is being carried on its cross-country journey through 46 states. An average of 180 torchbearers per day will each carry the flame approximately two-tenths of a mile.