



BISHINIK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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January 2003 Issue

Swine/Beef Show set for February 1

The Choctaw Nation is holding its 12th Annual Swine/Beef Show Saturday, February 1 in the Eastern Oklahoma State College Goddard Show Barn, west of Wilburton on Hwy. 270.

The Swine Show will begin at 10 a.m. and will be followed by the Beef Show.

To enter an animal in the show, students must

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

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

Documents required for records

The CDIB Department is requesting everyone to send a state birth or death certificate on each person in the family to be included in their records.

Even though you may already have a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), that doesn't mean your files are complete. If your CDIB was issued before June 2001, it is possible that we do not have copies of the state birth or death certificates connecting you to the person(s) who were enrolled on the Dawes Rolls.

Also, each Choctaw or Mississippi Choctaw of Oklahoma should have two cards - a CDIB, issued by the federal government, and a Tribal Membership, issued by the tribe. This includes minors. Please make this your top priority for the new year.

We are wishing each of you and your families a wonderful new year!

Homebuyer Education Workshop

Do you dream of owning your own home?

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

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

These services are available to any Native American at all income levels.

Issues covered in the workshops include:

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

Classes will be held in the following locations:

- DALLAS**
Tuesday, January 7
- WILBURTON**
Tuesday, January 14
- BROKEN BOW**
Tuesday, January 21
- HUGO**
Tuesday, January 28

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

Rural interdisciplinary training program becomes reality

Choctaw Nation health officials recently joined representatives from around the state to implement the first rural interdisciplinary training program in Oklahoma.

Members of the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority, Oklahoma Area Health Education Center, Southeast Oklahoma Area Health Education Center and faculty members from OU Health Sciences Center, Southwestern Oklahoma State University and NSU met at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center to discuss the scheduled rotations. Another part of the day's historical events included a ceremony to observe the preceptors signing their letters of agreement.

Dr. Charles Cook, M.D., Director of Southeast Oklahoma Area Health Education Center, first approached CNHSA administration last year with the idea of having the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center as the initial site for such a program. Through



History is made as representatives implement first rural interdisciplinary training program in Oklahoma.

his efforts, CNHSA and OKAHEC, this idea is now reality.

As the result of a proposal submitted by Richard Perry, Director of the Oklahoma Area Health Education Center, a three-year

award was granted to initiate the program with the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority.

This rotation meets the requirements for dietetics, medicine (both M.D. and D.O.), nurs-

ing, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, public health, and social work. Participants have the opportunity to work hands-on in a clinical setting with health care professionals from their discipline as

well as other disciplines.

Gary Batton, Executive Director of CNHSA, is excited about this program. "It will be a valuable recruitment tool for the Choctaw Nation. We are committed (See PROGRAM on Page 5)



Atoka Travel Mart Grand Opening

An official ribbon-cutting marked the Grand Opening of the Atoka Travel Mart on December 3rd. Profits from this and other tribal businesses go into services for citizens and creation of additional employment opportunities.

Choctaw Nation Assistant Chief, representatives celebrate Native American Month with troops

The Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation, Mike Bailey, was honored to spend the latter part of November at Army bases in Germany to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. Assistant Chief Bailey presented programs at five Army bases and one youth center, sharing the history of Native Americans, with special emphasis on the Choctaw tribe.

Sites visited included Dexheim, Wackermeim, Giessen, Baumholder and Wiesbaden. Groups of military personnel in the hundreds attended presentations by Bailey, who was accompanied by Tribal Director Brian McClain, CM/SE Management

Officer Matt Novick and country singer Brian Gowan.

"Trail of Tears" was one of the most popular songs that Gowan performed at the bases. Armed Services Radio interviewed the singer for more than an hour, with a live performance included in the show.

"Speaking at these military bases on Native American heritage has been a highlight in my career," said Assistant Chief Bailey. "The men and women that we met at the five communities in Germany were very receptive to us and expressed their appreciation that fellow Americans had come to celebrate with them."

Bailey said that mealtimes were spent in the cafeterias with the enlisted personnel, and new friends were made each day. He was thrilled to meet a former student from his administration days at Jones Academy. The first Army base visited by the Choctaw delegation was made especially memorable by Mario Morales asking if Bailey remembered him. "Of course I recognized him immediately," said Bailey. "Mario graduated from Jones Academy, and he told me he had served in the Army for seven years."

Choctaw Tribal Member Jennifer Tom, formerly of Wright (See TROOPS on Page 5)

Choctaw Chief joins tribal leaders at White House

Ten tribal leaders representing 576 tribes across the United States met in December at the White House in Washington, D.C. to discuss major issues of health and economic development. Chief Gregory E. Pyle of the Choctaw Nation said that leaders from tribes in Oklahoma, Washington, Alaska, Montana, Michigan, Utah, Alabama and North Dakota were encouraged by an increase in funds for diabetes care and an expressed interest in promoting job development in Indian Country.

The tribes were joined by National Indian Health Board President Julia Davis-Wheeler, United South and East Tribes (USET) Executive Director Tim Martin and National Congress of American Indian (NCAI) President Tex Hall. They thanked staff from the White House and Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson's office for the tremendous increase in diabetes treatment funding. The U.S. Congress recently voted to hike dollars for diabetes care from \$100 million to \$150 million per year for the Native American health care systems.

"It is encouraging to know that even during tight budget crunches, this Administration is supporting the fight of diabetes, a terrible disease that affects close to one-fourth of Native American people," said Chief Pyle. "I am thankful for the recognition of the plight of Indian people as we fight this disease."

Another health issue addressed by the tribes at the White House

meeting was the need for additional dollars for outsourcing medical care. Many of the Indian Health Service facilities refer to this outsourcing as "contract health." This is simply contracting in the private sector for health care of patients in the IHS system who need care not routinely provided at the government or tribally funded clinic or hospital. Because current funding for outsourcing is tremendously limited, approval is only given in extreme life or death situations. The Indian leaders stressed the need for additional outsourcing finances to White House and HHS staff members.

(See TRIBES on Page 5)

Council approves ordering more veterans jackets

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council voted in Regular Session December 14th to approve funding needed to purchase additional veterans jackets to fulfill requests made since the November 11, 2002 ceremony at Tushka Homma.

Jackets were issued to Choctaw veterans at the annual ceremony honoring those who serve our country, and an additional 800 jackets were needed to complete distribution to those veterans who were not able to attend. Choctaw veterans registered with the Special Projects Office received a jacket.

The Council authorized funds (See COUNCIL on Page 5)

Culbreath receives inaugural "Champions for Student Success" award



Presenting the inaugural "Champions for Student Success" award to Joy Culbreath, center, are (from left) Chancellor Hans Brisch, State Regent John Massey of Durant, State Regents' Chairman Carl Renfro of Ponca City and Assistant Vice Chancellor Dolores Mize. The State Regents honored Culbreath during their regularly scheduled meeting on December 5.

Joy Culbreath, Executive Director of Education for the Choctaw Nation, has been named one of three recipients for the first-ever "Champions for Student Success" award.

Oklahoma Senator Cal Hobson and Bank of Oklahoma President and Chief Executive Officer Stan Lybarger also received the award.

The "Champions for Student Success" award, which will be presented annually in December, is a way that the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education can honor members of the community who have demonstrated a high commitment to student success during the past year.

"Student preparation is a top priority for the State Regents, and this award recognizes those individuals who support the State Regents' ongoing efforts to encourage student success," Chan-

cellor Hans Brisch said. "These three recipients routinely go above and beyond the call of duty as defined by their jobs or their role as volunteers to promote excellence in education throughout our state, and we are grateful for their work and their service."

Culbreath oversees eleven education programs for the Choctaw Nation, working directly with students and their parents in southeast Oklahoma to help them achieve their education goals. She is an active partner with the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) and, through her scholarship outreach assistance for OHLAP, has helped southeastern Oklahoma schools post some of the largest enrollment gains in the state.

During her decade of service to the Choctaw Nation, Culbreath

has seen Head Start programs grow to 14, initiated a Choctaw language program and created a distance-learning program to teach the Choctaw language over the Internet. In addition, she helped expand the tribal scholarship program from approximately 400 students five years ago to 2,400 students last year.

"We are so pleased to recognize Ms. Culbreath for her tireless efforts to improve education in Oklahoma," State Regents' Chairman Carl Renfro said. "The work that she performs day-in and day-out to help stimulate student success and to help make Oklahoma a state where education is a top priority is commendable. Through her actions, more students from the southeastern part of our state will realize their dreams of going to college and earning a degree."

Enjoyed visit to Tushka Homma

Dear Chief Pyle,

I am a Choctaw Indian who has lived in Oklahoma all my life. I had never had the chance to visit Tushka Homma until recently. I was there on a Saturday. I walked all around the grounds and took pictures. I never realized there were so many interesting facilities on the property. Hopefully, I will get to visit again, maybe when a ceremony or celebration occurs. I am very proud of my heritage.

Ruby Snyder
Holdenville, Oklahoma

Researching ancestry

Dear Editor,

I am searching for information on my great-great-grandfather Elapahanubbee. He was married to Chum Pa. They had one child that I know of. His name was Green Harvey. Green was married to Ellen Harvey and later married Susan Taylor. Green and Ellen had five children, Willy Harvey, Jonas Harvey, Sissie Harvey, Beard Harvey and Gladys Harvey. Beard was my great-grandfather. He married Willie Terry. They had eleven children. My grandfather was Johnnie L. Harvey. He married Minnie McCarroll.

Beard was born August 31, 1890. He fought in World War I. I'm not sure when Green Harvey was born, but from his age on a census, he could have been born anywhere from 1860 to 1865. Johnnie Harvey was born April 9, 1929.

Any information regarding this would be greatly appreciated.

Stephanie Harvey
RR 1 Box 3339
Ft. Gibson, OK 74434

World War II veteran receives jacket

Dear Chief Pyle,

I received your invitation to attend the Veterans Day ceremony, but as I have osteoporosis, it is difficult to travel even with a brace. I'm so thankful I can still walk, just must not take a chance.

I want to say what a pleasant, sweet surprise I received in the mail. If lifted my spirits when I saw the beautiful jacket and my certificate. Thank you so much for remembering me, this old World War II veteran. My two brothers attended, so I'm glad, as one served in the Korean War and the younger in Vietnam. Bless our parents.

Thank you, again.

Julia Dean
Caney, Oklahoma

Seeking information

Dear Editor,

I am looking for any information about my father's natural parents. My dad was born October 4, 1944 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Wanita Ruth Sutton and Andrew Jackson McLarren. He was adopted when he was approximately one year old. He was always told that his mother was Choctaw. My dad's adopted parents have both passed away and we are curious about his natural family. If anyone has known these people or would have any other information, please get in touch with his daughter, Jamie. Thank you.

Jamie Sears
8 Elm St. #B
Mt. Home AFB, ID 83648
snjsears@msn.com

Thank you for all the correspondence

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to send my thanks to Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Mrs. Melissa Sue Folsom and the Choctaw Nation for the birthday card I received today. I received the card along with a card from my sister. The thoughts and concern from both are greatly appreciated.

I also want to thank the Choctaw Nation for all of the information I receive about my tradition, culture and heritage.

Andrew Mixon Jackson, Jr.

Grandmother attended Wheelock

Dear Editor,

I have been told that my grandmother went to Wheelock. Her name was Mary Alice Williams. She was born in 1885 and died in 1930. She was married to John Palmer. If anyone has any information about her, please e-mail me at srogers39@yahoo.com. Thank you!

An honor to represent tribe

Dear Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey and the Tribal Council,

I would like to extend my appreciation for the tribal assistance and acknowledgement I received during the Indian National Finals Rodeo that was held in San Jucinto, California. While there I was able to meet several Council members and tribal representatives and was able to let them know how much I appreciate what the tribe had done for me in this rodeo event and also the assistance I have received while going to college. It was an honor to represent my tribe and have my tribe acknowledge me while residing in Alberta, Canada. I am Choctaw and the son of Josh and Bert Pickens, McAlester, Oklahoma. Again, I thank you.

John Burton Pickens

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

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



Lyndee Smith of Stigler and Josh Alford of LeFlore would like to express their appreciation to the Choctaw Nation for purchasing their animals at the 2002 Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair premium sale held in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The support is greatly appreciated by each of the exhibitors.



Center's professionalism commended

Dear Mr. Blum,

I have had a unique opportunity at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, having never participated in a health care delivery system where care is rationed for all members/patients. Even though my time here has been short, I have seen from my perspective clinical problems can be managed in a rationed system. Indeed, here they are managed with diligence and professionalism not to the few, but to a majority of our Native American patients, regardless of their ability to pay; certainly, this a phenomena in the United States.

Your leadership team and those assisting you in accomplishing your goals should be proud, and justly so, with this achievement.

Thank you for the privilege of being a member of this team.

R. Alan Sather, M.D.

Whereabouts of old shipmate

Dear Editor,

I am trying to locate an old shipmate, a Choctaw by the name of Wilson, V.N. He went by "Willie" the entire time that I knew him. We were in the same Division aboard the USS Hector (AR-7), he as a Gunner's Mate and I worked in the optical shop during 1953-56.

This search is not of grave importance, just an old sailor wanting to say, "Hello, how are you doing" to an old shipmate. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Jacka T. Stites
308 W. Fir St.
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
928-639-1336

Thoughtfulness is appreciated

Dear Chief Pyle,

I would like to take the time to thank you for the birthday card, certificate and jacket that were sent to me recently. Being a veteran and speaking only for myself, things like this are always an honor to receive.

I was unable to attend this year's Veterans Day get-together. I do hope that I can attend next year.

You are doing a fine job. Please keep up the good work for the tribe.

Willis M. Eades, Jr.
Jones, Oklahoma

Diabetes education program is great

Dear Chief Pyle,

I am writing to let you know how much we at Hugo Intermediate School appreciated the opportunity to have been involved in your wonderful diabetes educational program. Sandra Dukes and all the ladies from the Diabetes Wellness Center should be commended for a job well done. They showed total compassion and concern for our students and informed them in a manner that I felt would make a lasting impression on the choices they made in the future. The information and materials received will be most useful and beneficial.

Thank you again for affording us with such a wonderful educational program for our students.

LaDona Dry
Fine Arts Instructor



Poteau group celebrates Thanksgiving

Among those enjoying the Thanksgiving luncheon at the Poteau Community Center are, above, Wayne Ballew and Bill Free. Tribal employees Liz Lee and Brad Spears, below, are busy helping serve the many guests.



Reunion

ANDREWS-McCARROLL

The Maggie (McCarroll) and Eram Andrews reunion will be held May 2-4, 2003 at Robbers Cave State Park, Wilburton, Oklahoma. There will be karaoke, a hypnotist, golf, door prizes and much, much more. Please bring your favorite dish and enjoy one of the best times you will have getting to know each other. For more information or a copy of Andrews-McCarroll newsletter, please contact Mary Wilkett, 918-426-1475 or Reva Tyler, 918-465-2880.



Can readers help identify photo?

Dear Editor,

This picture was taken somewhere around 1910 at a schoolhouse near Banty, Bryan County, Oklahoma. My father, Leroy Gardner, is in the second row from the front, standing eighth person from the right.

Who is the male teacher or administrator standing in the back? What is the name of the school? Is it at Armstrong Academy? Can anyone identify any of these students of so many years ago? Thank you.

Marie Gardner Wong
mgwong@arkansas.net
479-437-3381

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Future looks bright for Choctaw people

Rapid growth of the Choctaw Nation continues as we begin 2003. The tribe is working to bring jobs to areas of high unemployment in Southeastern Oklahoma. Currently, the Choctaw Nation employs more than 5,000 people, with about half of these jobs outside of Oklahoma. The number of employees inside and outside the tribal boundaries will increase this year with the opening and expansion of businesses owned and operated by the Choctaw Nation.

Employees have been hired for jobs at Boswell, scanning medical payment records for the United States Government. This is a federal contract obtained by the Choctaw Management/Services Enterprise. Jobs made available through this contract should increase quickly.

The Tribal Council and I want to see employment opportunities in areas where there is a need for the jobs. In addition to the federal contract slots, positions are being created in several towns due to the opening of Travel Plazas.

The Atoka Travel Plaza opened last month, and the Stringtown Travel Plaza has scheduled a Grand Opening for January 21st. A Travel Plaza in Poteau will open very soon, creating about 80 jobs between the three sites.

Last summer, 1,000 young people were able to earn money through the Summer Youth Work Program, thanks to money allocated by the Council members. Many of these youth needed the funds to help them purchase clothes and supplies for the school year. We expect to employ even more young Native Americans this summer.

While jobs are essential to the people in our communities across Southeastern Oklahoma, the revenues created by these tribal businesses are also vital to the programs and services offered to the citizens. Thanks to Travel Plazas, Gaming Casinos, and other profitable enterprises, the Choctaw Nation is able to send 2,400 students a year to college, offer free Choctaw Language classes, hold GED classes, pay salaries to Summer Youth Workers, provide elderly with help on items like heating and cooling bills, furnish emergency assistance and a great number of other services.

The Choctaw Nation has been extremely blessed with the success of businesses and the abundance of services. Blessings appear to persist for the future with the expectation of opening more job sites and funding additional programs to help the Choctaw people. My family and I pray for health, prosperity and happiness for each of you in the coming year.



From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

WICO contract fulfills site openings

December marked a tremendous milestone for Choctaw Management/Services Enterprise (CM/SE), with the opening of the Darmstadt, Germany Women, Infants and Children (WIC) site. The Choctaw Nation had received a contract about two years ago to open 54 main sites for WIC Overseas services and this last WIC Overseas site was opened in Darmstadt on December 16, 2002, successfully fulfilling the contract's mandated site openings.

CM/SE Managing Officer Matt Novick, Brigadier General Elder Granger (Commander, European Regional Medical Command) and I were honored to officiate at the opening of the Darmstadt, Germany (WIC) Overseas Office.

The WIC Program is a nutrition education and supplemental food program that works to improve the health of families enrolled in the program.

Prior to CM/SE being awarded the WIC Overseas contract, military families who had used the WIC benefit in the United States found themselves without this valuable program when they were assigned to an overseas military installation. Away from their family and friends and facing increased expenses from living overseas, this was a time

when the WIC benefit was often most needed.

Over the past 23 months, Choctaw Management/Services Enterprise has been implementing the WIC Overseas Program to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilian employees and their family members who are stationed overseas.

Beginning in January 2001, CM/SE opened the first WIC Overseas offices in Yokosuka, Japan and Lakenheath, England. Since January 2001, CMSE opened an additional 50 WIC Overseas offices, serving over 170 military installations, spread across the world in 12 countries. To date, the WIC Overseas sites have provided services to over 119,000 service members and their families. Presently, the program has a worldwide active participant workload of over 24,000. The program has provided over \$8 million in nutritious foods to our service members and their families, and is expected to reach or exceed the \$10 million level in 2003.

The extraordinary success of the WIC Overseas Program and other CM/SE contracts has established the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as a leader in providing health care and related services to the Federal Government in the United States and throughout the world.



Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

As we begin any New Year we think of the past year. We love to think on the wonderful things that have happened in our lives. We also remember the heartaches and our failures. At such a time we should look ahead, not with the idea of continuing with the failures, but of learning from them, not with the idea of doing less, but with the hope of arriving at the end of the year with new goals reached to the Glory of God.

If we did not have the promises of God we would be filled with fear as we face this New Year. What a glorious privilege to be assured that God knows every step of the way and has made provisions.

Today as we look forward to a New Year, we look into the Book of Joshua, Joshua Chapter 7. The experience in this chapter is very important, not only with regard to Israel's history, but with regard to Christian experience.

This chapter tells of the sin of Achan and its results. What happened to Israel at Ai can and does happen in the Christian life. Even though a Christian is living a victorious life, there is the possibility that he will fall into sin, become defeated, and spoil the victory in his Christian life.

After the great city of Jericho had been destroyed (Chapter 6), and God's Name honored, Israel sent out a small group of men against the city of Ai, a little town, thinking that they could take it easily, but the people of Ai came out against them. The forces of Israel were defeated, and 36 were slain. Why did this defeat follow on the heels of such a tremendous victory? What caused it?

There are two causes: First, there was sin in the life of one man, and secondly, they placed too much confidence on their own strength.

One lesson that we can learn from this experience is not to place too much confidence in past victory. Full of courage and confidence as a result of the victory of Jericho, the Israelites thought that they could take Ai easily, with just a few men. Because they were ignorant of sin in their midst, they did not even think they could be defeated. Victories are not won merely because we are Christians. Victories can be won only as we depend upon God's strength and power.

Lack of trust, as well as sin, hinders progress in the Christian life. Defeat brought humiliation, humiliation brought heart-search,

and heart-search brought the knowledge of sin in the camp. Joshua fell on his face before God and said in Joshua 7:7-9: "... Alas, O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? ... O Lord what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! ... and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thou great name?"

It would almost seem that Joshua blamed God for failure at Ai. He seems to accuse God of failing to give the victory. That is just the way we act in the face of failure. We say, "Lord, I trusted you, why did you fail me?"

There will be no failure if we have confidence in God and if sin has been properly taken care of. When there is failure, we can be quite sure that there is sin in our lives.

God did not leave Joshua in ignorance concerning the reason for defeat. He said to Joshua in verses 10-12 of Chapter 7: "And the Lord said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the Children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you."

Joshua mourned over the failure because he was not aware of the sin which had caused it. Today, there may be many Christians who mourn over defeat but do not mourn over sin. Like Joshua, they may not be aware that the sin exists; but in the event of defeat they should search their hearts to see if some sin is present which is causing failure.

God reproved Joshua for mourning over failure, he commanded Joshua to set apart the people and get rid of the sin in their midst. The Lord cannot work when there is secret sin present.

Why was the thing that Achan had done such a terrible sin? What he stole was not worth much and it did not belong to anyone, for it was a part of the spoils of the city of Jericho. The inhabitants of the city had been slain, and so the thing had not been stolen from anyone.

Achan's sin was so great because he had disobeyed the direct command of God that none of the Israelites should take any of the spoil, for it was accursed to them. All of the spoils of the city were dedicated to the Lord. So Achan robbed God of that which belonged to Him. That puts an entirely different light on the situation. The secret sin which caused defeat was the taking of that which belonged to God.

I wonder how many Christians today are guilty of the same sin that Achan committed - stealing that which belongs to God. At least 10 percent of that which God has given you belongs to Him. Christians cannot get by with this sin, for it causes the whole Church, the Body of Jesus Christ, to suffer; it causes the world to suffer, and some day thousands of souls will point a finger at the Church and accuse her of neglect. Because Christians withhold that which belongs to God, the work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ is hindered.

Finally, God expects us to confess our sin, to judge it, and to put it away from us. Achan's judgment was death. A memorial of stones was set up to remind Israel of the fierceness of God's anger against them. When sin had been put away, God again promised victory.

If you do not know Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior you can accept Him and be born again into a new Spiritual Life. "But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." (John 1:12)

May God bless you and may you have a successful, prosperous and blessed New Year.



Party honors Senior Citizens over 90

A birthday party was held in November at the Talihina Senior Citizens Center for those who were 90 years of age or over. The party was sponsored by the Senior Citizen Committee with gifts and a cake donated by local merchants and individuals. The honorees included Ola Arnold, 90; Evelyn Stone, 90; Susie Samuels, 91; Willie McCann, 92, and Etta Horton, 103. Also included in the picture are District 3 Councilperson Kenny Bryant, Bess Barnett and Ruth James.



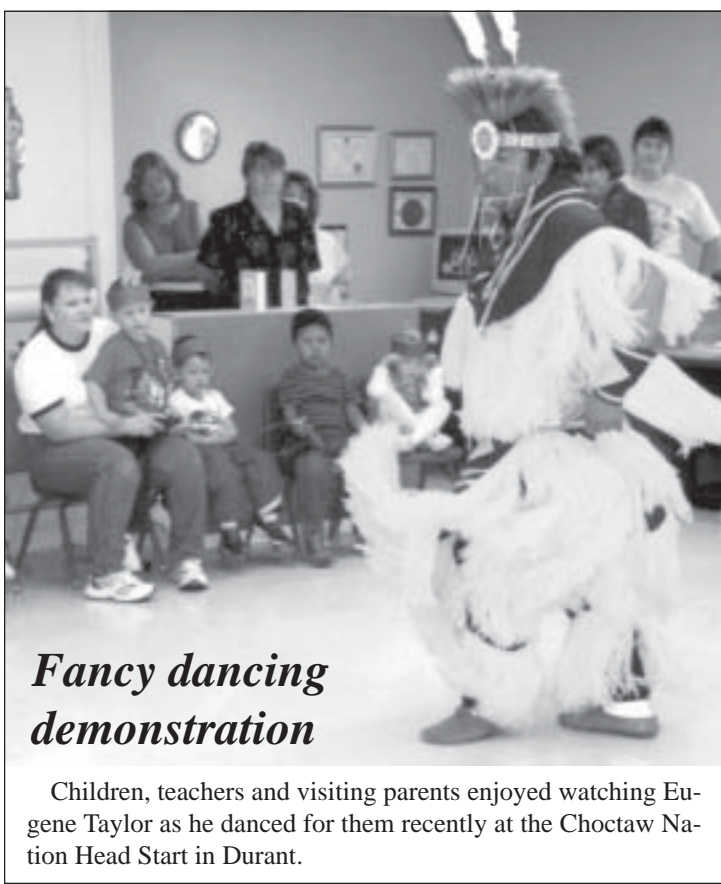
Santa pays a visit to the Choctaw Nation Head Start in Hugo.



Idabel dinner

The Thanksgiving Dinner in Idabel was enjoyed by everyone including these ladies pictured with Chief Gregory E. Pyle. In photo at left are Louise Amos and Teresa John. At right are Ruby Washington, Ida Crosby and Dorothy Henson.





Fancy dancing demonstration

Children, teachers and visiting parents enjoyed watching Eugene Taylor as he danced for them recently at the Choctaw Nation Head Start in Durant.

Management and leadership training seminar presented

Exclusive presentation for directors and managers of the Choctaw Nation was conducted by Rockhurst University from Shawnee Mission, Kansas, on the 16th and 17th of October. Held in the Conference Room of the Choctaw Inn in Durant, the seminar was attended by 61 directors and managers presently working for the Choctaw Nation. Management and leadership skills were addressed by a professional trainer with several years of training and experience in the business world.

Emphasis was placed on:

- Leadership fundamentals that all managers encounter
- Developing personal leadership strengths
- Communication techniques that managers should know
- Managing time, priorities and projects
- Building a highly motivated team
- Mechanics of a manager's job
- Turning around difficult employees and eliminating problem behaviors
- Leadership role in making change happen, and
- Preparing for the next level of their career

The interaction between the trainer and participants was relaxed and very informative. The opportunity was available for the directors and managers to ask questions about some of their concerns at their job sites. The professional trainer presented the seminar in a manner that was enjoyable and productive. Many good discussions took place with a lot of managers and directors receiving good information and advice.

CHOCTAW NATION GED CLASSES

LeFlore County

Beginning January 14, 2003
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center
in Poteau, Oklahoma

Pittsburg County

Beginning February 3, 2003
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Eastern Oklahoma State University Campus
802 E. College Ave. in McAlester, Oklahoma

Bryan County

Beginning February 3, 2003
Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex
in Durant, Oklahoma

McCurtain County

Beginning February 4, 2003
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
in Idabel, Oklahoma

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



Nursery News

Chloe Marie Williams

Faye and Aaron Burdex, Sr. of Atoka, Oklahoma wish to announce the birth of their granddaughter. Chloe Marie Williams was born March 10, 2002 at Washoe Medical Center in Reno, Nevada. Her parents, Sherece Burdex and Jermaine Williams, are residents of Turlock, California. Chloe's grandparents also include Mr. and Mrs. Yassia Williams of Muskogee, Oklahoma. A special thank you goes out to Clifford Hutchinson of Los Angeles, California for Chloe's first baby shower.



Kenneth Ray Long, Jr.

Kenneth Ray Long, Sr. and Crystal Long of Whitesboro, Oklahoma would like to announce the birth of their son, Kenneth Ray Long, Jr. He was born November 5, 2002, weighing 8 pounds and measuring 20 inches long. Grandparents are G.W. Long and Phyllis Long of Whitesboro and Charles Hilton, Sr. and Ava Hilton of Tuskahoma, Oklahoma.



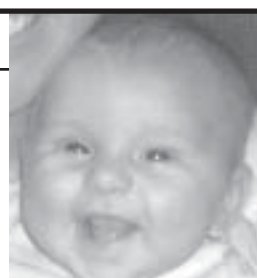
Elise Dawn Bowman

Bobby and Debbie Bowman of Haskell, Oklahoma are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, Elise Dawn, at 7:45 p.m. November 17, 2002 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Elise weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 20 inches long. Grandparents are Jacquetta Bowman and Tim and Dawn Brittain, all of Haskell. Elise was welcomed home by many more family members and friends.



Emma Katherine Grigson

Emma Katherine Grigson was born October 2, 2002, weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces, to Shawn and Kristen (Shirley) Grigson of Memphis, Tennessee. Emma is the great-great-granddaughter of the late Augusta Victoria Folsom Goines, an original enrollee from Van Buren, Arkansas and the great-granddaughter of Howard and Elsie Goins of Napa, California.



Tanner William Smith

Jeremy and Erin Smith of Blossom, Texas are proud to announce the birth of their son, Tanner William Smith. He was born at 12:39 p.m. August 22, 2002 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center at Talihina, Oklahoma. He weighed 5 pounds 12 ounces and was 18.5 inches long. Proud grandparents are Donna Estep of Garland, Texas, David and Marci Estep of Hugo, Oklahoma and Danny and Linda Smith of Blossom. Proud great-grandparents are Foy and Louise Rhodes of Hugo, Gene and Sandra Oyler of Paris, Texas, Dan and Jocquetta Smith of Blossom and Margaret Spann of Mabank, Texas. There is also one proud great-great-grandmother, Mary Loeta Neal of Oklahoma City.



Meagan Elizabeth Clark

Doyle and Janie Clark of Lindsay, Oklahoma are proud to announce the birth of their third child, Meagan Elizabeth Clark, on September 24, 2002 at the Carl Albert Hospital in Ada. She weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 17 inches long. Meagan was welcomed home by brother, Zachary, and sister, Olivia Grace. Grandparents are the late Shirley Clark and the late Clarence Clark of Oklahoma City and Donald R. and Linda Kay of Lindsey. Great-grandparents include Grace Kay and the late Ira Kay. Aunts Bobby Kay, Barbara Lewis and Jennifer Kay and cousins Tyler, Colton, Kalisa and Kyle also welcomed Meagan home.



Nathaniel Travis Lufkin

Lakota, Gigi and Dravyn would like to welcome their new baby cousin, Nathaniel Travis Lufkin, the son of Diandra Lufkin of Ada, Oklahoma. Nathaniel was born June 26, 2002 at the Carl Albert Indian Hospital in Ada. He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and was 19 inches long. Grandparents include Eula Lufkin of Ada and the late Curtis F. Lufkin. They are the great-grandchildren of the late Willie and Mary Goings of Broken Bow, Oklahoma.



New Year's Baby 2003 born at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center

New Year Day 2003 welcomed the arrival of Koby Alicia Baxter, born at 12:18 a.m. on January 1, 2003 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, Talihina, Oklahoma. She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Koby is the daughter of Steven and Rita Baxter and little sister to one-year-old Tatem Baxter of Talihina. Grandparents are Tracey and Corkey Hutchinson and Odessa and Glen Hamilton. Great-grandparents are Carolyn and Eldon Hokit and Marie Baxter.

Nathaniel Edward Nations

Parents Brian and Tawnya Nations and sister, Hannah Grace, of Millerton, Oklahoma would like to announce the birth of Nathaniel Edward Nations. Nathaniel was born October 1, 2002 at the Carl Albert Indian Hospital in Ada, Oklahoma. He weighed 7 pounds, 13.8 ounces and measured 21.6 inches long.



Grandparents are Tim and Beverly Stuart of Valliant, Oklahoma, Bob and Cherie Beene of Swink, Oklahoma, Joyce Nations of Valliant and the late Benny Nations. Great-grandparents are Buddy and Mildred Stuart of Millerton, Doug and Nelda Sherrell of Florida, Gwen Beene of Swink and the late Ernest Beene, Sadie Nations of Valliant and the late Clarence Nations, Mildred Graves of Valliant and the late Henry Graves. Nathaniel's great-great-grandmother is Gladys Sherrell of Chandler, Oklahoma.

Kalisa and Kyle Kay

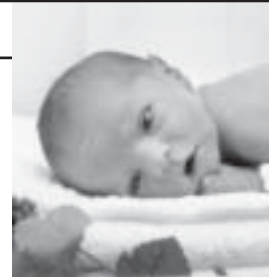
Kalisa Marie Kay and Kyle Luther Kay were born August 22, 2002 at OU Medical Center, Oklahoma City, to Jennifer Kay and Ronald Scoggins. Kyle balanced the scales at 5 pounds, 4 ounces and Kalisa measured in at 4 pounds, 4 ounces.



Grandparents are Donald R. and Linda Kay of Lindsey, Oklahoma and Harold and Alice Scoggins of Maysville. Great-grandparents include Grace Kay of Lindsey and the late Ira Luther Babe Kay.

Tristan Nathaniel Collins

Lucas Trent Collins of Evansville, Indiana wishes to announce the birth of his brother, Tristan Nathaniel Collins, born on November 12, 2002 in Evansville. Tristan weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19 inches long. Proud parents are Justin and Shellee Collins. Grandparents are Dr. and Mrs. John Hornbrook of Francisco, Indiana, formerly of Duncan, Oklahoma.



Brooklyn Madison Dawn

Brooklyn Madison Dawn was born at 10:12 a.m. October 22, 2002 at Sparks Regional Medical Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 19 inches long.



Proud parents are Jeffery Ludlow and Tanya Bailey. Grandparents are Vernon and Carolyn Bailey of Alma, Arkansas, Linda Ludlow of Oak Hill and the late Johnny Ludlow of Oak Hill. Her great-grandmother is Ruth Ludlow of Hugo, Oklahoma and her #1 great-uncle is Kenneth Billy of Battiest, Oklahoma.

FEBRUARY

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

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

WELLNESS CENTER SCHEDULE

February 2003

Date	10 a.m.-12 noon	1-3 p.m.
February 4	Eagletown - Hwy. 3 Fire Department	Hochatown Store
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
February 7	Albion - Community Center	Talihina - Kimball's Grocery
Hearing, cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
February 11	Achille - Store	Caddo - Senior Citizens
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
February 14	Tupelo - Store	Lehigh - Fire Department
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
February 18	Bokchito - Store	Hugo - WalMart
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
February 20	Albany - Post Office	Bennington - Store
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
February 25	Leflore - Feed Store	Wister - Library
Vision, cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
February 28	Spiro - Sunset Corner	Spiro - Sunset Corner
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

FEBRUARY

2003

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

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.

McALESTER – Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 1212 S. Main.

POTEAU – Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center.

SMITHVILLE – Big Lick Church.

STIGLER – Choctaw Community Building.

TALIHINA – Boys & Girls Club.

WILBURTON – Choctaw Community Building.

WRIGHT CITY – Choctaw Head Start Building.

The Food Distribution Pro-

gram 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 580-924-7773 so that you can be rescheduled to go to Antlers, Durant or McAlester.

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

Diabetes Wellness Center starts new diabetes programs

By Sharon Moore, Director
Diabetes Wellness Center

Season's greetings from the Diabetes Wellness Center. The year 2003 will mark the start of two new diabetes programs at the DWC plus moving into the new Diabetes Wellness Center building upon completion during the summer.

"Lighten Up and Live" is a 12-week healthy lifestyle program focusing on putting more physical activities into one's daily life and weight loss. The program will start on Thursday, March 6 at the DWC in Talihina with plans to extend the program to the other Choctaw health clinic areas. Recent studies have demonstrated that complications can be prevented and for those individuals with pre-diabetes the onset of diabetes can be delayed and hopefully prevented.

"Taking Charge," a diabetes self-management group education program, will also kick off in March. The program will provide updated knowledge and skills for individuals to become more actively involved in the self-management of their diabetes. The program is held over six sessions (two

four-hour sessions and four two-hour sessions). The first two sessions will be held at the DWC in Talihina and the four two-hour sessions will be held at the Choctaw health clinics in Broken Bow, Hugo, McAlester and Poteau, as well as in Talihina. For the last four sessions individuals will be encouraged to book into the sessions at the most convenient location for them to attend.

The sessions will be filled with a variety of activities. Participants will be involved in cooking meals and snacks, supermarket tours (reading food labels), chair exercises, walks and other physical activities, hearing about the latest in medical management of diabetes and seeing the latest in what is available in diabetes self-management equipment plus having time to share and compare their experiences of living with diabetes. Family members are encouraged to also attend. It is so important to get plenty of support at home and at work in the management of diabetes.

DWC staff are looking forward to providing these new programs. New activities have also been planned for the community. Watch out for program updates. For more information, call 918-567-7000, ext. 6066.

Program continued from Page 1

to continually searching for new avenues that result in partnerships with other health programs throughout the state of Oklahoma. Our ultimate goal is to provide the best care possible for our patients."

Senator Kenneth Corn, District 4, spoke to the group about the efforts of the State of Oklahoma to recruit health care professionals in our area. "Through our tourism campaign, southeast Oklahoma sports the mountainous countryside, lakes and streams which make up the most beautiful part of the state."

As the legislature goes into session this year, Sen. Corn plans to work hard in helping balance the state's strained budget while keeping in mind that our state is in a shortage crisis for qualified health care workers.

University faculty from NSU College of Optometry, NSU Social Work Program, SWOSU College of Pharmacy and OU Health Sciences Center Physical Therapy, Public Health, and Physician Assistant programs attended the meeting as part of

the student recruitment effort. The faculty members expressed their full support of the program and gave assurance that their students will be well informed of the opportunities available through this program.

Faculty from OSU Dietetics program in Stillwater was unable to attend but they have pledged student participation from their program.

The first two rotations, scheduled for March and April of this year, will focus on diabetes in the Native American. The 2003-04 year will consist of three rotations with one focusing on geriatric health and the other two on diabetes. The 2004-05 year will follow the same format as the previous year.

The grant also provides for interdisciplinary training through the Northwest AHEC in Enid beginning in 2004. For more information regarding this program, contact Michelle Griffith, Program Coordinator, at 918-582-1989, or Beverly Afzall, SEOKAHEC Site Coordinator at 918-647-8611.

Council

continued from Page 1

to increase the size of six community centers. Antlers, Bethel, Durant, Hugo, Idabel and Talihina are in need of additional space to accommodate the increasing number of Indian people using the facilities.

A Council Bill was passed to accept the terms of the revised congressional legislation that awarded payment of settlement funds for the Arkansas River lands.

The Choctaw, Cherokee and Chickasaw Nations still own the riverbed. The settlement just concerns the accreted land.

According to Tribal Counsel Bob Rabon, the three tribes retained the wet bed, the mineral rights and water rights.

A budget was passed for the upcoming Tribal Election and re-appointment was approved of Election Board Members Clarice Chapman, Edna Loftin and Jerry Tomlinson.

Tribes

continued from Page 1

According to Pyle, the tribes were urged to continue to develop jobs and businesses that could provide employment to individuals and capital for services that assist the needy. "I feel assured that the President, Senators and Congresspeople realize the impact tribes have on communities where they operate successful businesses. Each money-making venture opened by a tribe creates jobs for area people, and puts funds back into the community where we are based," said Chief Pyle.

Salt and hypertension facts, several flavorful solutions

Everyone enjoys delicious foods, and we choose our favorites based on how good they taste. Sometimes we have to make changes in the foods we eat because of medical problems like high blood pressure (hypertension). Believe it or not, you can have foods that taste good and are good for you. How? It's all about eating a variety of foods, seasoned properly, in the right amounts for you.

The sodium-hypertension connection

A diet high in sodium is often linked to hypertension, but food choices are not the only cause. Contributing factors include family history, increased age, smoking, being overweight, and leading a sedentary lifestyle. Also, some ethnic groups, such as African Americans, have a higher incidence of hypertension.

So what's the sodium-hypertension connection? Studies show that although going easy on salt and sodium will not prevent hypertension, it can lower blood pressure in those who have hypertension. In fact, even healthy people should watch their sodium intake. Here's the bottom line: nutrition experts recom-

WIC WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN

mend a healthful eating pattern moderate in sodium, a physically active lifestyle, and a healthy weight.

What can I do about it? Flavor with less salt and sodium

Before you pick up the salt shaker, think about this – you weren't born with a love for salt. A new baby has four primary tastes – sweet, bitter, sour, and salty. A newborn will embrace sweet foods and reject sour or bitter, and can take or leave salty foods. To put it simply, if you are raised on salted foods, you will grow up thinking foods need to be salty to be tasty. Also, most of the sodium you consume comes from processed foods and foods eaten at restaurants.

The good news is that you can "retrain" your taste buds. If you gradually decrease the sodium and salt in your diet, you'll find that your taste for salt declines, too. The less salt you consume, the less you'll want. By selecting lower-sodium brands of

foods and adding fruits and vegetables without adding salt, you can lower the sodium in your diet considerably. For added flavor, try using herbs, spices, and salt-free seasoning blends. They're an easy, convenient way to add satisfying flavor to just about any recipe.

Flavorful salt-free solutions to reduce sodium intake

- Pour one heaping teaspoon of salt-free Italian seasoning blend into boiling pasta water for a light Italian accent.
- Squeeze fresh lemon juice on steamed vegetables, broiled fish, rice, or pasta for a refreshing taste.
- Add a few shakes of salt-free garlic and herb seasoning to your homemade soup to liven up the flavor.
- Mix 1/4 cup of salt-free onion and herb seasoning with vinegar, sugar, and olive oil for zesty vinaigrette.
- Add garlic-flavored vinegar to homemade potato salad recipes instead of salt.
- Slice potatoes and spray with nonstick spray. Sprinkle with your favorite salt-free herb-seasoning blend and bake at 375° for 30 to 40 minutes.


Troops continued from Page 1

City, is based at Wiesbaden and told Assistant Chief Bailey and Brian Gowen that she was amazed at the visit from the Choctaw Nation representatives.

The last presentation of the trip was held late on Friday, November 22nd at the Hainerberg Youth Center. Although tired from a heavily scheduled week of travel and speakings, Assistant Chief Bailey felt the Youth Center visit

was among the most important of the celebrations. Representatives of the youth center said they were honored to host the Assistant Chief and other guests.

Appreciation plaques and certificates were presented at each stop of the tour. "These items will all hold a special place on my office wall," said Assistant Chief Bailey. "I look forward to participating in similar events in the future."




Choctaw Nation WIC

Serving the Choctaw Nation at 14 sites

SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	Tuesdays
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	1st, 3rd & 4th Wed, every Tues. & Thurs.
Bethel	580-241-5458	8:30-4:00	1st & 3rd Tuesday
Boswell	580-566-2243	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Friday
Broken Bow	580-584-2746	8:30-4:00	2nd & 4th Tues., every Wed. & Thurs.
Coalgate	580-927-3641	8:30-4:00	2nd Wednesday
Durant	580-924-8280 x 2255	8:00-4:30	Daily
Hugo	580-326-5404	8:00-4:30	Mon., Wed., Thurs, & 3rd & 4th Fri.
Idabel	580-286-2510	8:00-4:30	Monday and Friday
McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30	Daily
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	1st, 2nd & 3rd Wednesday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Tuesday and Wednesday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	Mondays

Call today for an appointment


Move It!




And Reduce Your Risk of Diabetes

Don't slow down! Becoming inactive and overweight as a teen can put you at risk for diabetes. In fact, type 2 diabetes is more common than ever in young American Indians and Alaska Natives. But you can stay healthy and have fun by keeping active.

**So get up and Move It!
And Reduce Your Risk of Diabetes.**

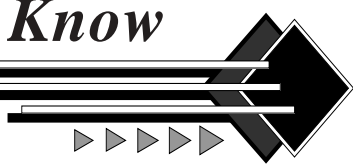


For more information contact
Association of American Indian Physicians
at (877) 943-4299 or <http://www.aaip.com>



The National Diabetes Education Program is a joint program of the National Institutes of Health and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

People You Know



Kerwin turns 12

Happy birthday to Kerwin Wayne Moore who celebrated his 12th birthday on December 15. He is a sixth-grader at Finley-Reese Elementary in Wright City, Oklahoma. He is active in the Gifted and Talented program and enjoys playing basketball. Kerwin is the son of Stephanie Moore of Durant, Oklahoma and Wayne Moore of Wright City, Oklahoma. His grandparents are Shirley and the late Daniel Barboan of Durant and Billy Paul and Mary Lou Baker of Bethel, Oklahoma.



Happy birthday, Kira

Kira Honirene Moore celebrated her ninth birthday on December 24. She is a third-grader at Finley-Reese Elementary in Wright City, Oklahoma. She enjoys reading, math and playing softball. She is the daughter of Stephanie Moore of Durant, Oklahoma and Wayne Moore of Wright City. Her grandparents are Shirley and the late Daniel Barboan of Durant and Billy Paul and Mary Lou Baker of Idabel, Oklahoma.



Engagement announced

Stephanie Lee Willis and Brad Scott Weiland, both of Norman, Oklahoma have announced they will be married in a 3 p.m. ceremony on June 14, 2003 at the Alameda Church of Christ in Norman.

The bride-elect is the daughter of William and Valdene Willis of Norman. She is the granddaughter of Eugene and Gloria Willis of Pittsburg, Oklahoma and the late Jim Alexander and Wanda Alexander of Ada, Oklahoma. She is a 1999 graduate of Little Axe High School and is employed with Power Jack Foundation as a receptionist.

The prospective groom is the son of Gary and Rachael Weiland of Newcastle, Oklahoma. He is a 1999 graduate of Newcastle High School and is employed with Albertsons Foods as assistant manager.



Lydia turns two

C.J., Raelynn and Ema would like to wish their little sister, Lydia, a happy second birthday. Lydia was born on January 23, 2001 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma.

Also wishing her a happy birthday are her parents, Toni and Albert "B.J." Dean, Jr. of Abilene, Texas; proud grandparents, Anthony and Lynnidean King and Jean Olivia Grant and Albert Dean, Sr. of Talihina, and great-grandmas, Dorothy Johnico-Melton and Velma Frazier-Angel.



Logan turns five

Logan Clay Wright turned five years old on January 1. He is the son of Priscilla and Chad Wright of Watson, Oklahoma. Logan has one brother, MacKenzie. We would like to wish Logan a happy birthday and many, many more years to come.

Logan's grandparents are George and Daisy Watson of Watson, Oklahoma and Donna and PaPa John of Mena, Arkansas.



Look who's one

Happy first birthday to Kelli Kaye Hilton on November 13. Kelli's parents are Charles Hilton, Jr. and Michelle Joiner. Grandparents are Charles Hilton, Sr., Ava Hilton and Mike Joiner.

Happy birthday, Kelli - love, Grandma.



Rio turns two

Rio Tate Ralls turned two years old on November 27.

He celebrated his birthday with friends, family and Chuck E. Cheese.

Happy birthday.



Kelton turns three

Happy belated third birthday goes out to Kelton Ywayn Mathis on December 2 from his mother, Melinda Mathis; grandparents, Lisa Sustaita of DeQueen, Arkansas and Anthony Mathis of Talihina, Oklahoma, and great-grandparents, Linda and Ronkey Martin and Christine and Archie Meashintubby, all of Talihina, Oklahoma.

Kelton would like to wish his uncle Robert James a happy 18th birthday on January 3. Robert is the son of Lisa Sustaita of DeQueen and Anthony Mathis of Talihina. He is also the grandson of Linda and Ronkey Martin and Christine and Archie Meashintubby, all of Talihina, Oklahoma.

A happy belated birthday is also sent to Jearl Watson who is "going over the hill."

Honor student turns 16

Megan Solomon will turn 16 on January 21. An honor student, Megan is a sophomore at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, California.

She is the daughter of Karen Solomon at Santa Clarita, California and the late Norris Solomon. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Lexis Bob Stoliby of Ardmore, Oklahoma and the great-great-granddaughter of the late Listy Bob and Boyd Bob of Boswell, Oklahoma, who were among the first enrollees in the tribe.



Couple celebrates 74th anniversary

Happy anniversary to John Bob and Beatrice Viloa Spain. John, 92, and Beatrice, 90, celebrated 74 years together on October 21, 2002. They have three sons, Robert Joe Spain, Donald Spain and Ronald Spain, and one daughter living, Ollie Lee Spain Terhune. The Spains have several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Hailee is six

A very happy sixth birthday to Hailee Paige Hampton from her parents, Ronnie and Sandy Hampton; sisters, Brittany and Elizabeth; grandparents, Gene and Brenda Hampton and Dorothy Southerland; great-Grannie Lilley and a very special uncle, Scott Hampton. Happy birthday, Hailee. We all love you so very much.



Trio of birthdays

We would like to wish Lakota Skye a happy fifth birthday on November 16; Jalyne Rayne "Gigi" a happy third birthday on January 2, and Dravyn Curtis a happy first birthday on September 29 - from Mommy, Grandma, Auntie and Sonny. We love you babies a lot!



Belated birthday wishes

We would like to wish Elise Kristen Wade a belated happy first birthday on September 23. Elise's parents are Larry and Kelly Wade of Oklahoma City. Her grandparents are Berlin and SinCha Wade of Oklahoma City; Elaine and Paul Hulbutta of Wewoka, Oklahoma, and Virgil and Deloris Samuels of Bethel, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents include Katherine and Kin SanAugustin of Oklahoma City, L.V. and Letha Wade of Ringling, Oklahoma and the late Leroy and Stella Crosby and Rev. Eli and Minerva Samuels of Broken Bow. Also wishing her a happy birthday are her uncles, Chris and Dion Samuels of Norman, Oklahoma, Fabian and Stacey Samuels of Wewoka and her great-aunts, uncles and cousins.



Happy fifth birthday, Kyron!

Johanson Watson would like to wish his grandson, Kyron Robert Schutt-Linn, a happy fifth birthday on December 24, and his sister, Lillie Ann Watson, a happy 39th birthday, also in December.

Happy birthday, everyone!

Semone McCoy turned 14 years old on November 20 and her sister, Shayla McCoy, turned 12 on June 14. Both are from Oklahoma City and both are sent best wishes from their mother, Mavis McCoy; grandmother, Rosie McCoy; brothers, Stephen, Sr. and David McCoy; sisters, Jessica and Shayla McCoy; uncle, Spencer McCoy; aunts, Cynthia McCoy, Framena Price and Fredetta Green; nephew and niece, Stephen, Jr. and Naudica McCoy, and cousins, Chaudon Jones and Caleb Price.

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Mavis McCoy of Oklahoma City turned 36 years old on August 12. Wishing her a happy belated birthday and the best that life has to offer her in the new year are her mother, Rosie McCoy; children, Stephen, Sr., Jessica, David, Semone and Shayla McCoy; brother, Spencer McCoy; sisters, Cynthia McCoy, Framena Price and Fredetta Green; grandchildren, Stephen, Jr. and Naudica McCoy, and nephews, Caleb Price and Chaudon Jones.

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Fredetta Green of Oklahoma City turned 38 on November 4. Wishing her a very happy birthday and the best of wishes in the year 2003 are her brothers, Spencer McCoy, Nathan Green and Frederick Keller; sisters, Mavis McCoy, Wanda Keller, Tonya Keller, Aretha Keller and Marquita Bailey.

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The family of Fred Lincoln Keller would like to wish him a happy birthday and send belated happy birthday wishes to family members Iasha Keller, August 19; Marquita Bailey, September 1; Nathan Green, September 9; Porsha Keller, September 26; Chaudon Jones, October 5; Brettain Keller, October 10; Frederick Keller, November 28; Floyd Carethers, December 28 and Wanda Keller, December 29. Also, a special happy birthday to Ray (Polk) Bruner on December 18 and Barbara (Bruner) Keller on December 20.

## James turns 50

Happy birthday to James Berg of Tulsa who turns 50 on January 15. James works in the stewarding department of the Adam's Mark Hotel and has recently completed ten years with Adam's Mark.

## Happy birthday

Bridgett Nichole Perteet celebrated her 16th birthday on December 15.

Bridgett is the daughter of George and Janice Perteet of McAlester, Oklahoma and the granddaughter of George "Sonny" and Mary Perteet of McAlester. She is the great-granddaughter of Betty (Perteet) Thrasher of Trinity, Texas and the great-great-granddaughter of the late Clearance Perteet.



## Christopher turns two

Christopher Allen Perteet, Jr. turned two on December 13. He is the son of Jessica and Pvt. Christopher Allen Perteet, Sr., grandson of George and Janice Perteet and great-grandson of George "Sonny" and Mary Perteet, all of McAlester; the great-great-grandson of Betty (Perteet) Thrasher of Trinity, Texas and the great-great-grandson of the late Clearance Perteet.



## Cousins

Happy birthday to cousins Jacob Bates, Brayden Bentley and Harrison Bates. Jacob turned six on January 7; Brayden will be 4 on January 14, and Harrison will turn three on February 20. Jacob and Harrison are the sons of John Bates and Angela Bates. Their grandparents are Charles and Carolyn Bates and Ruby and the late James Ketchum. Brayden is the son of Aaron and Anita Bentley and the grandson of Charles and Carolyn Bates and Larry and Patti Bentley.



## Happy 31st anniversary

The children and grandchildren of George R. Watson and Daisy M. Watson of Watson, Oklahoma would like to wish them a happy 31st anniversary on January 12.



## December birthday

Birthday wishes go out to Garrick Watson who turned 27 on December 22. He is pictured here with his nephews, "Bug" and Jordan. Garrick is the son of George and Daisy Watson of Watson, Oklahoma.



## Happy 26th

Priscilla Wright of Watson turned 26 years old on November 30.

Priscilla's husband, Chad, and their two sons, Logan and MacKenzie, would like to wish her a happy birthday!



## Belated wishes

Belated birthday wishes go out to Debra Watson who turned 28 on October 18 and Sheala Hodge who turned 29 on October 19. They are the daughters of George and Daisy Watson of Watson.



## Birthday wishes

Belated birthday wishes go out to Masheli Kiara Watson who celebrated her first birthday on September 13. She has one brother, Mason, who celebrated his seventh birthday on November 2, and Masheli's mom, Renae Parker, celebrated her 30th birthday on November 7. Happy birthday also to Masheli's sister, Larissa, who will turn nine years old on January 28. Masheli, Mason and Larissa are the grandchildren of George and Daisy Watson of Watson.



## Happy birthday

Rylee Martinez celebrated his sixth birthday on December 20. Happy birthday and congratulations to Rylee's soccer team, Invaders, for remaining undefeated this season.

Happy birthday, also, to Max Alexander who became a teenager on September 15.

Their mom is Terri Taylor of Sherman, Texas. Grandparents are Lonzo and Nancy Wallace and great-grandparents include Amos Taylor and the late Agnes Taylor.



## Girls turn 15

Guess what? Dalilah Hilton and Tiffanie Bohanan turned 15 years old in December.

Tiff's birthday is December 15 and Dalilah's birthday is December 16. Happy birthday!



## Happy birthday

Birthday wishes go out to Quita Jefferson who will be 15 years old on January 13 and to her brother, Huey Jefferson, who will be 14 years old on January 24. They are the children of Jeffery Jefferson of Bethel, Oklahoma.



**Shirley Sumner achieves national board certification**

Congratulations to Shirley Sumner for obtaining national board certification for professional teaching standards in November. Shirley teaches at Jefferson Elementary School in Shawnee, Oklahoma where she has taught first grade for the past ten years. Prior to that she taught fourth and fifth grades at Jefferson. Shirley attended East Central University at Ada where she graduated with degrees in education, biology and medical technology. A 1974 graduate of Pittsburg High School, she is the daughter of Margaret Rogers and the granddaughter of Mary Ann (Foster) Shirley, an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation.

In 2002, 241 Oklahoma teachers achieved National Board Certification.



**Choctaw novelist turns 50**

Brenda Ivie, member of the Choctaw Nation and an employee of Choctaw Nation Head Start since 1998, turned 50 years old on December 26.

Happy birthday, Brenda, from your husband, Tommy; sons, Blaine and Jay, and Mom and Dad, James and Ethel Fails, of Broken Bow.

Brenda's first novel, "Night of the Wolf," was released in August 2002. The book is available online at 1stbooks.com; amazon.com; barnes&noble.com and borders.com, or you may contact Mrs. Ivie at 1381 S. Nix Road, Caney, OK 74533 or by phone at 580-889-5108 to order an autographed copy.



**Daddy's boy turns two**

We would like to wish Canyon Lane Taylor a happy second birthday on December 20. Canyon is the son of Dwayne Taylor and Becky Peters of Hugo, Oklahoma. He celebrated at home with family and friends.

Canyon's grandparents are William and Judy Taylor of Soper, Oklahoma, Theda and Dodson Lamb of Hugo, and Betty Shawhart of Fort Towson. Canyon has two brothers, Cody Peters and Cody Taylor; four sisters, Amber Hagger, Tahasha Taylor, Ashley Heady and Rachael Taylor. Have a great day!



**Cody turns 15**

Happy birthday to Cody L. Smith. Cody will turn 15 years old on January 14. His activities are football, track, BB HS choir and Indian dance. Helping him celebrate his birthday will be his brother, Cory; parents, Steve and Brenda Smith; all his grandparents, Barrentine and Nancy Tushka, Mike and Sunday Ward and Steve Smith of Arkansas, and great-grandparents, Bill and Lettie Johnson. Cody's cousin, Mark who is enlisted in the Marines, and Cody's friend, Cludia, wish him a happy birthday.



**Nancy turns two**

We would like to wish our little angel a happy second birthday. Happy birthday, Nancy, we love you, from Mom, Dad, Taylor and Natascha.



**Look who turned one!**

Happy birthday to Chloe Elizabeth Kent. She turned one year old on November 27. Chloe has been a blessing to her family and is wished many more wonderful birthdays, nights of good rest and good health from her Mom, Dad, Aaron and family.



**Congratulations**

We would like to wish Tracy J. Strain II a happy birthday. Tracy turned 11 on December 9. He loves playing football and is an outstanding middle linebacker on the Moore Little League Wolfpack Football team. They had a wonderful year and came in second place for their age group.

Congratulations and happy birthday. We love you - Mom, Dad and Jade.



**Happy 14th!**

Happy birthday wishes are sent to Jade B. Strain of Moore, Oklahoma. Jade turned 14 on January 7.

Jade is the daughter of Tracy and Regina Strain and the fifth great-granddaughter of Chief John Ross of the Cherokees. Happy birthday, baby, and many more to come. We love you - Mom, Dad and Tracy II.



**Jessica celebrates 18th**

Happy birthday to Jessica Hardy of Lawrence, Kansas who celebrated her 18th birthday on December 26. She is the daughter of Julie and Jesse Hardy and the granddaughter of the late Lucy and Justin Hardy and Corina and Izzie Bermudez.

Congratulations from the family in Mississippi.



**Two years old!**

Happy birthday to Paul A. Riddle, Jr., the son of Paul and Stephanie Riddle of Cleveland, Tennessee. Paul turned two years old on December 18.

Also, happy birthday to his Daddy who celebrated his 44th birthday on December 20.



**Former Goodland students attend gathering**

Former Goodland students Mary Frances and Oleta Williams attend the All Nation, One Voice Religious Gathering of Indian Tribes all over America and Canada. Oleta has been an active member of the Orangevale, California Baptist Church, teaching Sunday School for 30 years. Her daughter is a church greeter and her youngest grandson is youth director and drives the church van every Sunday picking up members who haven't any transportation. Her other grandson also attends the same church. Mary Frances is a member, but lives in Reno, Nevada.



**Callagan is Golden Key inductee**

Jessica Marie (Roe) Callagan, daughter of Johnola and Dave Roe of Boones Mill, Virginia, was inducted into Golden Key International Honour Society at San Diego State University on November 1, 2002. The society is an academic honors organization that provides academic recognition, leadership opportunities, community service, career networking and scholarships to members. Membership into the society is by invitation only to the top 15% of juniors and seniors in all fields of study. Jessica is a Liberal Studies major with an emphasis in education and a specialization in linguistics. She will be graduating in May and is to enter the Teacher Education Program at SDSU for graduate study. Jessica is pictured with Dr. E. Nicholas Genovese, Professor and Chair of Classics and Humanities, left, and Dr. Edith J. Benkov, Professor and Director of French and Francophone Studies.



**T-ball MVP**

Kanan Ryan Wisdom, 5, of Ada, Oklahoma completed his 2002 T-ball season in "most valuable player" form. Pitching for the Coca-Cola Kids in the Homer T-ball league in Ada, Kanan has led his team to a 42-1 record and to championships in four tournaments in the last two seasons.

He has been playing baseball and basketball since he was one year old and playing organized T-ball at the pitcher position since he was three. When he gets big he wants to be an All-Star fastpitch softball pitcher for his dad's team, the mighty Shades of Red of Ada. Kanan attends Kindergarten at Homer Elementary School in Ada and Boiling Springs Indian United Methodist Church in Lula, Oklahoma. He is the son of Kevin and Debra Wisdom of Ada. Grandparents are Darla Wolf, Noah Wisdom, Jr. and Louise Shields of Ada and the late Welman Wolf, Sr. of Anadarko. Great-grandparents are Lillie Wisdom and the late Noah Wisdom, Sr. of Pontotoc, Oklahoma, Minnie Shields and the late Joseph Shields of Harden City, Oklahoma, the late Paul and Rose Wolf of Anadarko and the late Jeff and Elsie Alexander of Allen, Oklahoma.

Congratulations, Kanan! Keep up the great work!



**Honor student**

Congratulations to Amanda Kay Warlick who has earned straight A's during the first quarter of the seventh grade. She has also been recognized and earned an award from the San Juan Capistrano Unified School District for achieving both the principal's and the superintendent's honor rolls. Amanda, 12, is the daughter of Bob and Lauren Warlick.



**Nanny says happy birthday**

Rhonda Hamilton of Colbert, Oklahoma sends happy birthday greetings to her granddaughters, Hunter Hamilton of Ada, Oklahoma and Alexis Mosley of Texarkana, Texas. They both turned five years old - Hunter on December 13 and Alexis on December 22.



**Happy eighth birthday**

John Tyler Hamilton, son of proud parents Dane and Kathryn Hamilton of Delta Junction, Alaska, takes great pride in his Choctaw heritage. John shares a birthday of January 19 with his grandmother, Vicki Alkire, who recently passed away. Dad and Mom say, "Happy eighth birthday, Johnny!"



**Happy fourth, Jared**

Jared Nathan Knight celebrated his fourth birthday on November 30 with a party at McDonald's. Jared was born on December 2, 1998 to Billy and Jennifer (Lawrence) Knight of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. Attending were his parents; grandmother, Donna "MiMi" Lawrence; great-grandfather, Walter "PaPa" Wilkerson; aunts, Heather Looney and Dawn Slack; uncle, Andy Slack; cousins, Jordan Slack and Shawn, Jason and Brandon Looney, all of Pauls Valley.



Also attending were Jared's best friend, Austin, and his mother, Tammy Williams, and Tina, Jessica and Kasey Banta, all of Pauls Valley. Those unable to attend, but sending gifts were grandparents, Ted and Susie Lawrence of Braggs, Oklahoma and uncle, Reggie Looney of Pauls Valley.

**Chelsea racks up honors**

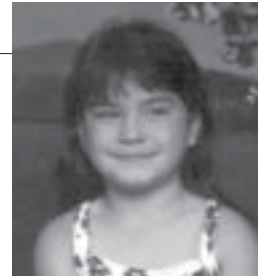
Chelsea Simpson, daughter of Alan and Kim Simpson of Byng, Oklahoma, was named All-State in basketball in spring 2002 by the Oklahoma Girls Coaches Association, the first team by the Daily Oklahoman and the Tulsa World. Chelsea was selected to play in the Texas-Oklahoma basketball game, July 27 on the Texas Tech campus at Lubbock. There were only 12 players picked for this honor from Oklahoma. The Ada Evening News chose Chelsea as the All-Area Basketball "Player of the Year for 2002." She was also named All-State in tennis and was 2002 runner-up in Class 3A; first in doubles with a season record of 25-5. She was the first female player from Byng to be chosen as All-State in tennis. Her brother, Zac, was the only male ever to make All-State in tennis from Byng. Chelsea is an outstanding student and was named Academic All-State. She was recognized by several for academic achievement, including the Masonic Lodge, the American Lodge and the Army Reserve. Chelsea is attending Harding University at Searcy, Arkansas and plays basketball for the Harding Bisons.



Chelsea's father, Alan Simpson, coached basketball in Hugo for three years and has coached basketball at Byng for the past 22 years. He has retired from coaching and is now the Athletic Director for Byng Public School. Chelsea is the granddaughter of Bobbie and Ike Simpson of Hugo.

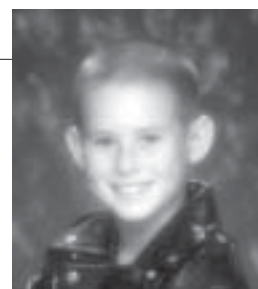
**Happy seventh birthday**

Cheyenne Dakota LeAnn Lowe's family would like to wish her a big happy birthday on December 21. She is the daughter of Donny and Michelle Lowe of McCurtain, Oklahoma and the little sister of Travis, Bradley, Ashlee, Donnie and Brandon. We love you.



**Already nine!**

Happy ninth birthday to Nathan Belew, proud Choctaw and Chickasaw son of Sean and Tonya Belew of Little Elm, Texas. Nathan is the grandson of Eugene Riddle, formerly of Bennington, Oklahoma, and Jettie Ogden Erwin, formerly of Bokchito, Oklahoma.



**Happy birthday!**

Delores Rosson of Antlers, Oklahoma would like to wish a happy birthday to Ollie Rosson Golden. She will be 45 years old on January 29.



**Happy 18th!**

We would like to wish our grandson, Joseph Wright Rosen, a happy birthday. Joseph turned 18 years old on December 3. He is a junior at Antlers High School.



**Happy 12th birthday**

Kyle White Buffalo will celebrate his 12th birthday on January 22, 2003. Kyle is in the sixth grade at Latta Public School in Ada, Oklahoma. His parents are Jr. and Galela White Buffalo. He has one sister, Shana White Buffalo. Grandparents are Rochelle and Joy White Buffalo of Stratford, Oklahoma the late Gaston and the late Anna Bell Hickman of Roff, Oklahoma. God bless and we love you! Mom, Dad and Shana.



**Happy birthday!**

Chance Ryon Wafford turned three on November 22 and Emma Rae Wafford will turn one on January 15.

They celebrated their big days with family and friends.

Parents are Scott and Katrina Wafford of Fort Gibson. Grandparents are Mike and Jo Ann Scantlen of Muskogee, Oklahoma, Martha Shipley of Fort Gibson and Dan Wafford of Tulsa, Oklahoma.



**Congratulations!**

Shana Gail White Buffalo was nominated for the U.S. Achievement Academy 2002 National Awards. Shana is a freshman at Latta Public School, Ada, Oklahoma. Her parents are Jr. and Galela White Buffalo and she has one brother, Kyle. Grandparents are Rochelle and Joy White Buffalo of Stratford, Oklahoma and the late Gaston and the late Anna Bell Hickman of Roff, Oklahoma. We are very proud of you! Mom, Dad and Kyle.



**Ambre turns three**

The family of Ambre Shae would like to wish her a very happy third birthday on December 25. Ambre is the daughter of Timmi Hobbs of Atoka, Oklahoma and the big sister to Garrett Hobbs. She is the granddaughter of Gary and Diane Taylor of Seneca, Missouri and the great-granddaughter of Adam Betsey of Atoka. Happy birthday, Buttercup!



**Happy birthday, Tiffanie**

Tiffanie Thomas will be seven on January 31. She is the daughter of Rusty and Jessica Wilson of Monroe, Louisiana and Joe Thomas of Boswell, Oklahoma. Grandparents are James and Lori McLeroy of Paris, Texas and Linda Thomas of Boswell. All of your brothers and sisters are sending you birthday wishes, Dakota Thomas and Kevin Day of Monroe, Meridian Thomas of Hugo and Taylor Lindamood of Boswell. We all love you very much.



# OBITUARIES

## Zoma Lindsey Barricklow

Zoma Lindsey Barricklow, 101, passed away Wednesday, November 6, 2002 at her home. A native of Ardmore, she was born November 12, 1900, the daughter of Nina Miller Lindsey and Selden Trullery Lindsey.

Her father, who passed away in 1939 at the age of 84, was an acclaimed U.S. deputy marshal in Indian Territory for 16 years prior to Oklahoma statehood. Selden T. Lindsey was responsible for the capture or demise of many infamous outlaws, including the notorious Bill Dalton, last of the Dalton gang.

A non-fiction account of Selden Lindsey's life, family and career was written by his grandson, Harrell McCullough, based in part on Lindsey's own autobiographical account and aided by the research and documentation of his great-granddaughter, Gloris Reck, and the detailed recollection of her father's life provided by Mrs. Barricklow's remarkable memory. The first edition, published in 1991, won a national award for state and local history. Mrs. Barricklow was a member of Memorial Christian Church in Ardmore. She devoted her life to the care of her beloved younger sister, the late Venus Lindsey Mendenhall, and other family members, including her niece, the late Fayrene Blythe Stone, after the death of her husband, C.D. "Bill" Barricklow. He was an attorney, a native of Oklahoma of Seminole heritage and a World War I veteran. Mr. Barricklow passed away in 1956 at the age of 61 at the veteran's hospital in Oklahoma City.

Survivors include Mrs. Barricklow's nieces, Judith Lindsey Brown and Rena Lindsey Marsh, both of Ardmore, and Jane Miller Gruver of Bismarck, North Dakota; a nephew, John Miller of Salem, Oregon; two grandnieces, Leslie McCollom of Austin, Texas and Gloria Schouw Reck of Diamond Bar, California; grandnephew, Daniel Marcus Gruver of Austin; great-grandniece, Allison Armstrong Montague, and great-great-grandniece, Claire Montague of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The entire family deeply mourns the loss of their beloved "Aunt Zoma" whose good advice, dependability, loyalty, love and generosity will be sorely missed.

## Michael Forrest Mandelin

Michael Forrest Mandelin, 44, passed away Monday, December 2, 2002 in Phoenix, Arizona. He was born October 24, 1958 at Greenville Air Force Base, Greenville, Mississippi.

Michael graduated from Scottsdale High School, Scottsdale, Arizona. He graduated from Arizona State University with honors. Michael was very proud of his Choctaw heritage.

Survivors include his mother, Ruby Williams Mandelin; four sisters, Nikki Mandelin, Melanie Mandelin, Teresa Mandelin and Nyla Norris, and four brothers, David Mandelin, Clyde Mandelin, Duane Norris and Gregory Norris.

## Evelyn Davis

Evelyn Davis, originally of McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away Tuesday, November 19, in Mesa, Arizona. She was born in Bugtussle in 1933. Mrs. Davis was a homemaker and a devoted wife and mother. She was known for her loving and giving heart.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Floyd H. Davis, in February 2002.

Survivors include her children Kathleen Coleman, Marilyn Reynolds, Stephen, Janet, Mark and John Davis; five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Her mother is Leona Earl, and her sisters are Faye Lafferty, Elizabeth Abbott, and Marjorie Chandler, all of Mesa.



## Florence Maude Vawter Fitzgerald

Florence Maude Vawter Fitzgerald, 99, passed away on Sunday, December 22, 2002. She was born February 21, 1903 in Franklin, Indian Territory. She was a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and was one of the last few original enrollees of the tribe. Her grandfather was removed to Oklahoma on the "Trail of Tears."

Florence later moved with her family to Bethany, Oklahoma where she grew to adulthood. She graduated from the high school at Oklahoma Nazarene College, now known as Southern Nazarene University, where she was active in the Shakespearean Club and the Platonic Literature Society. She constantly enriched the lives of those around her, teaching her children Latin phrases and her grandchildren and even great-grandchildren to play the piano. She received her Life Teaching Certificate from Central State Teacher's College in Edmond, Oklahoma and moved to Pernell, Oklahoma to teach at Wyatt's Chapel School and help her family during the Great Depression. Later, she moved to Dale, Oklahoma to teach first grade and music classes. Florence met her husband, Eugene Frank Fitzgerald, at Pernell and later married him while teaching at Dale. After the birth of two children, they returned to Pernell where she taught music. Florence and Frank were married for almost 60 years, until his death in 1991.

Florence received her Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree from East Central College in Ada, Oklahoma in August 1957. She taught school for 36 years before retiring. She also spent approximately 75 years of her life teaching vocal music and piano lessons privately. In 1920, her classmates wrote of her singing, "It made the birds hush with humility." Her patience, love and music will live through her students and family. She accompanied many vocal music and band students in competitions. Florence especially enjoyed children and friends of all ages. She was very involved in watching and helping people and plants grow and develop. She had a very nurturing spirit.

In her lifetime, Florence witnessed many changes in world history. She was four years old when Oklahoma became a state and six years old when Geronimo, the leader of the Apache Nation, died at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. When she was born, automobiles and airplanes were a novel idea (she often told her children of trips across the Canadian River in a surrey), and television, space travel, and antibiotics were not even in the experimental stage.

Florence was preceded in death by her parents, Martha Ann McCasson Vawter and James Wesley Vawter; sisters and brothers, Eula, Eunice, Ethel, Beatrice, Alice, Elbert, Albert, Zona and Lillian; and her husband, E.F. Fitzgerald.

Her daughter, Dr. Marcia Fitzgerald Guinn; son-in-law, George Guinn; son, David Fitzgerald; three granddaughters, Milynda Guinn Moore, Lia Guinn Ingram and Lisa Fitzgerald; and her brother, Syllas M. Vawter, survive Florence. She also leaves great-grandchildren, Sascha Ingram, Leif Moore, Ashley Ingram, Davey Ingram, and MacKinley Moore; her great friends, Pat Cole Seals and the Rev. Blake Western, and many nieces, nephews and friends. In her last days her favorite expression was some form of "I love you."

## Betty Patricia Moore Ward

Betty Patricia Moore Ward, 78, of Muskogee, Oklahoma passed away Thursday, November 28, 2002 at her residence. She was born January 10, 1924 in Muskogee to Herbert McClain Moore and Lena McCurtain Moore. She was the granddaughter of Chief Green McCurtain, Principal Chief of the Choctaws, first elected in 1896 and again in 1898. He was the last of the McCurtain dynasty among the Choctaws, the last of the Skak-chi-homas Chiefs of the tribe.

Betty married John W. Ward, Sr. who preceded her in death in 2000. She was also preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and one brother.

Survivors include her daughter, Eugenia Pitchford and her husband, Ron, of Wagoner, Oklahoma; one son, John Ward, Jr. and his wife, Cee, of Poteau, Oklahoma; three grandsons, one granddaughter, three great-grandsons, three great-granddaughters and numerous nieces and nephews.

## Hunter Scott Goines

Hunter Scott Goines, 11 months old, of Coalgate, Oklahoma passed away Saturday, November 23, 2002 at Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born December 19, 2001 at Poteau, Oklahoma.

Survivors include his mother and father, Scott and April Goines of the home; two brothers, Jace Hardy and Ashton Cripps, both of the home; grandparents, Lottie Flanary and Robert and Debbie Goines; great-grandparents, Anna Flanary, Buck and Elly Nickles and Earline Carter; one aunt, Angie Goines; two uncles, Joe Hardy and Justin James, and numerous other relatives and loved ones.



## Bertha Anna "Nana" Cantrell

Bertha Anna "Nana" Cantrell, 95, passed away Thursday, October 10, 2002 in Monroe, Oregon. She was born August 28, 1907 in Sulphur, Oklahoma to James Carter and Susie Folsom Carter.

She married Floyd Cantrell in Pierce, Oklahoma on July 13, 1923. They moved from Oklahoma to Oregon in 1925.

Bertha was a homemaker and she enjoyed canning, sewing, quilting and gardening. She especially enjoyed reading her Bible. She was a member of the Assembly of God Church in Junction City, Oregon for 45 years.

Survivors include three sons, Leon of Santa Rosa, California, Floyd, Jr. of Redding, California, and Kenneth of Philomath, Oregon; a daughter, Betty Herbert of Carson, Washington; 17 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Floyd, in 1986 and two daughters, Ruth Snelgrove in 1994 and Eula Corbin in 2001.

## Tony Lloyd Terry

Tony Lloyd Terry, 39, passed away Wednesday, November 13, 2002 in Aledo, Texas. He was born July 12, 1963 in Poteau, Oklahoma.

He was a member of the Outreach of Love Church in Springtown, Texas and a member of the Choctaw Nation. He worked as a specialty cabinet maker. He loved to work with wood and build beautiful things. His never-ending wish was to move with his children back to Oklahoma with "God's people." He loved family gatherings and his children were his reason for living.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, the Rev. Carl Pugh and David and Bessie Terry; his dad, Ray Terry, Sr.; a special uncle, Bill McAtee, and numerous other loved ones.

Survivors include his daughter, Whitney Lynn Terry of Aledo; four sons, Michael Shane, Tory Dwayne and Tony Lloyd, Jr., all of Aledo, and Chadrick Brian of Arlington, Texas; his estranged wife, Christine of Fort Worth, Texas; three brothers, Ray Terry, Jr. of Houston, Texas, Carl David and Michael Keith, both of Springtown; his mother and "pops," Joyce and Don Riddle of Poteau; a special aunt and cousin, Loyce McAtee Hall of Poteau and Tami Gottlieb of Oklahoma City, and grandmother, Mellie Pugh of Poteau.

## Helen Sue Intermann Humphrey

Helen Sue Intermann Humphrey, 53, passed away Wednesday, October 16, 2002 in Tucson, Arizona. She was born January 14, 1949 in Wichita, Kansas.

Helen Sue was very proud of her Choctaw heritage. She was the daughter of Margie and Earl Intermann of Wichita, Kansas. She was the granddaughter of Alice and Benjamin Spring of Kinta, Oklahoma and the great-granddaughter of Peter Conser.

She graduated from Emporia State Teachers College in Kansas in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in physical education. She taught physical education in both Kansas and Arizona.

Survivors include husband, Richard H., and daughters, Rowena Spring and Susan Marie.

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Of course you do. You've earned it! Volunteer attorneys, staff, and law students will be available at the following times and places to professionally prepare your federal and state tax returns and e-file them, all at no cost to you.

**Dates:** Wednesday and Thursday, February 12 and 13 and Wednesday, April 9  
**Times:** 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Auditorium, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, 16th & Locust, Durant, Oklahoma

No appointment necessary. Just bring to the site all your tax documents: W-2s, 1099s, childcare provider information, driver license(s)/photo IDs, Social Security cards (copies are acceptable), and any other documents you think may be necessary to prepare your taxes. Copies of your 2001 tax returns would be very helpful, but are not required. If you want refunds deposited in your checking or savings account, we need the bank routing and account numbers. Bring a check to the site. We can identify this information and submit it with your returns.

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sponsored by Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc.



David and Dean Hunter visit with District 8 Councilperson Perry Thompson during Hugo's Christmas Dinner.



District 4 Councilperson Delton Cox and Lilly Lewis, 89, enjoy the fellowship at the Poteau Christmas party.



Enjoying the holiday festivities at Hugo in December are R.W. Nored, Juanita Garnet and Lue Beesley.



Vester Queen is congratulated by Chief Gregory Pyle on having served as president of Poteau's Senior Citizen group for 14 1/2 years. Vesta was presented a plaque in honor of his service by incoming president Jim Fry and Councilperson Delton Cox.



# Choctaws meet in Fort Worth



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Anthony Belvin of Dallas.



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey with cousins, Gary and Donna Redding, and aunt, Juanita Redding.



Angela Young and Duane Winship.



Mickey Percy and Christie Sisk, niece of Tribal Council Speaker Kenny Bryant.



Rhiannon Weaver, Chief Pyle and Carla and Herman Weaver.



Payton Rhoades draws tickets for door prizes with assistance from Brenna Winship.



## Vocational Rehabilitation Program assists disabled Native Americans

The Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program is currently in its fifth year of operation and funded through the Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. The primary purpose of the program is to assist disabled Native Americans living within the ten and one-half counties of the Choctaw Nation boundary to obtain their goal of vocational training and gainful employment. Services include counseling, guidance, training, job coaching, placement in suitable employment, assistive devices, and other goods and services that can be reasonably expected to benefit an individual with a disability in terms of employment. The program assists many individuals and disabilities which include but are not limited to, diabetes mellitus, alcohol abuse/dependency, orthopedic, mental health, high blood pressure and many more.

The staff consists of Gary Batton, Health Executive Director; Randy Hammons, Director; Joyce Wells, Assistant Director; Jennifer Davidson, Counselor; Debbie Davenport, Counselor; Darryl Brown, Counselor, and Charlotte James, Administrative Assistant/Voc Rehab Technician.



## “Share the Spirit of Christmas”

The Choctaw Nation Community Based Social Work Program (CBSW) sponsored its first annual “Share the Spirit of Christmas.” This project asked Choctaw Nation Employees to donate nonperishable food items for Christmas baskets, which were given to four Choctaw families. The families were chosen from those who had been served by the program this past year.

The Community Based Social Work Program is a fairly new program, which serves Choctaw families. Being a community-based program, services are taken directly to the field and assistance is given in the communities where families are more comfortable. The Community Based Social Work Program’s mission is to help Choctaw families find permanent solutions to long-term problems by initiating change, setting goals, making a plan and following through. The program’s primary goal is to assist Choctaw families in locating resources to help meet immediate needs.

For additional information about the program please contact any of the following staff at 1-877-285-6893:

- Randy Hammons, Director**
- Linda Goodwin, Assistant Director/Lead Social Worker**
- Farron Dill, Social Worker**
- Betty Jackson, Social Worker**
- John Vick, Social Worker**
- Richadean Jackson, Social Worker**

## Choctaw Nation programs, staff earn several awards

The Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Projects with Industry, and Community Based Social Work Staff have had several awards of recognition over the past few months.

The Consortia of Administrator for Native American Rehabilitation, a national Native American Voc-Rehab organization, awarded Linda Goodwin the Outstanding Staff Member Award for her dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life of American Indians with disabilities.

The Consortia also recognized Voc-Rehab Counselor, Jennifer Davidson, as a nominee for Counselor of the Year for 2001. Jennifer was selected as runner-up out of 65 national native Voc-Rehab Programs, which employ three to four counselors per program.

The Choctaw Nation Voc-Rehab Program, the Projects with Industry, and the Community Based Social Work Program recently gave annual awards. Farron Dill was selected as the 2002 Community Based Social Worker of the Year; Alison Hawkins as the 2002 Projects with Industry Employee of the Year, and Jennifer Davidson as the 2002 Vocational Rehabilitation Program Employee of the Year.

Also pictured are Gary Batton, Executive Director of Health; Randy Hammons, Director of VR/PWI/CBSW; Joyce Wells, VR Assistant Director, and Angie Dancer, PWI Coordinator.



## Projects with Industry Program receives funding

Choctaw Nation Projects with Industry Program would like to take this opportunity to announce that our office has received new funding from the U.S. Department of Education office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services for the next three years totaling \$954,564. Therefore, the Choctaw Nation is encouraging businesses and disabled Native Americans to take advantage of services provided by PWI. Businesses looking for capable, dependable, and prescreened employees are already taking advantage of this program. If a business agrees to hire an individual through this program, they will be reimbursed for On-the-Job Training (OJT) at 100% of the the employees salary. The business is encouraged to retain the individual in permanent employment at the end of the training period. Businesses can also take advantage of federal tax credits of up to \$4,000 per employee for employing Native Americans with a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB).

Disabled Native Americans who have a CDIB card and are looking for employment are urged to take advantage of this program. Individuals found eligible can benefit from several services offered such as: On-the-Job Training, Job Placement, Job Searches, Counseling and Guidance, and Job Readiness. The program assists many individuals and disabilities which include but are not limited to, diabetes mellitus, alcohol abuse/dependency, orthopedic, mental health, high blood pressure and many more which are too numerous to mention. Businesses and Native Americans interested in receiving more information, please call a Project with Industry Program staff member at 580-326-7758 or toll free 877-385-6893.



Randy Hammons, Director; Alison Hawkins, Coordinator; Angela Dancer, Coordinator/Sr. Counselor; Charlotte James, Administrative Assistant/Voc Rehab Technician; Gary Batton, Executive Director of Health; Glenn Russ, Job Placement Specialist, and Paul Dill, Job Placement Specialist.

## Gifts for the holidays

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Projects with Industry, and Community Based Social Work Program staff members assisted in getting Christmas gifts for needy Choctaw children. A donation check was received from Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation. The gifts were purchased and wrapped by the staff members of all three programs and delivered to the children so they could have presents to open on Christmas morning. All staff members enjoyed being a part of this project and hope to be able to help next year.





## A Salute

The Choctaw Veterans Association would like to express its appreciation to Mr. Billy J. Coleman for his service and commitment to the defense of our country.

Bill Coleman left high school prior to graduation to enter the Naval service in 1943. After boot camp he served as a gunner's mate for two years, seven months and fourteen days aboard the cargo attack vessel U.S.S. Titania



(a/k/a 13) as part of the Third Amphibious Force, Fifth Fleet Southwest Pacific in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. In April 1944, he participated in the invasion of Enirau and Cape Gloucester off the eastern coast of New Guinea. Then as part of Northern Transport group (Task Group 53.3) in June and July he was involved in the invasions of Saipan and Guam. On October 20, 1944 as part of the Seventh Fleet under command of Admiral Kinkaid, his ship was a part of the initial invasion at Leyte, Philippine Island. Under command of Task Unit 79.3.2, January 1945, Coleman participated in the initial invasion of Luzon, Philippine Island. In route to Luzon on January 8 and 9, 1945 his convey was attacked by a group of determined "kami-kaze" planes which were eventually destroyed with naval gun power and fighter planes.

From May 1, 1945 until July 4, 1945, under the command of Task Group 78.1, a unit of the Seventh Fleet, he participated in the following invasions on Borneo: Tarakan, Labuan Island, and Balikpapan, putting ashore an assault force of the Australian 9' Corps, remnants of the famous "Desert Rats of Tobruk."

Returning home after the war, he found jobs scarce and the hourly wage very low. After holding several jobs over a period of four years, he returned to the military, enlisting in the Army where he remained until 1969. During his stint in the Army, he attended several prestigious service schools and continued his own education.

In November 1950, Coleman was assigned 643 QM Petroleum Depot Co. APO 4 1. From 1954 until 1957 he was with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment as part of the Seventh Army in Germany. In August 1957, he returned to the United States to the 2' Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas. In 1959, he was assigned to the Artillery Training Command, Fort Sill, Oklahoma as an instructor. In August 1961, he received orders to Headquarters Battery 9 Bn 1st Arty, 250' Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. From 1962 until 1964, he was assigned to Headquarters Battery, 7 Bn 1st Arty as battalion Aerial Observer. In August 1964, he was assigned First Sergeant of Battery A, 5 Bn (155SP) 78' Arty Combat Development Center, Fort Ord, California. Then in 1966, while at the Center in Fort Ord, he received orders for Vietnam. He was assigned as First Sergeant Battery B, 2 Bn 20 Arty, (ARA) Aerial Rocketry Artillery, 1' Cav Div (Air) APO 96490. From August 1967 until November 1, 1969, he was assigned First Sergeant Battery A Staff & Fac Bn (USAAMS), Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he served until he retired in November 1969.

Completing his military career, he entered college and received a degree in education with a major in geography and history in 1973. For three years, he taught elementary education and was co-principal in the Pocola School System. In 1977, he began teaching with the Catholic School System in Fort Smith, Arkansas at the St. Boniface Church School, retiring once again in 1986.

Coleman began a third career, with his two sons, operating a small cattle ranch near Spiro, Oklahoma. And a fourth after returning to the farm as he pursued one of the great loves of his life - writing. He wrote several historical articles for Twin Territories, the only historical newspaper in the state of Oklahoma, and for the Bishinik. For three years, he also wrote the news for the Northern LeFlore County Choctaw Senior Citizens. During this time, he and two other Choctaw senior citizens cared for and maintained the Choctaw National Cemetery at Skulleyville. Instrumental in organizing and getting the first Choctaw language class started in Poteau, he still studies the Choctaw language via the Internet. Today, he and his wife of 55 years, Ruth, enjoy an active retirement.

The Choctaw Veterans Association requests that all members submit a short biography and photo so that we may continue to feature a veteran in issues of the Bishinik. The Association is also seeking volunteers to serve on various committees. If interested, please call 405-691-2856 or send e-mail to: choctawveterans@earthlink.net.

## Pocola's buried treasures

Submitted by Billy Coleman

Buried treasures in Pocola? That's what some sleazy entrepreneurs tried to lead the people of Pocola into believing: that an abandoned Spanish gold mine lay buried beneath rocks on Buzzard Hill, in their community. Although Oklahoma has never had a gold rush, its mountains and hills are littered with scars from the plains in the west to the rolling hills in the east: proof of treasure-seekers seeking the hoards of gold allegedly buried by Spanish explorers and outlaws.

Almost always these legends concerned a party of Mexicans who were attacked by a warring band of Indians and forced to bury their gold. All members of the party were massacred except one or two who escaped. As old men, they returned searching for the vast hoards of treasures they had buried. But they always left empty-handed, never to return.

Back in the early 1930s, two men from Okmulgee, Oklahoma made their appearance in Pocola.

They claimed to have overheard such a story from two other men while discussing their adventures one night in an Oklahoma City eatery. Gleaning what they could from the story, they came to Pocola looking for Buzzard Hill.

After a few days scouting, they located their goal and moved in several pieces of equipment and started to work. After sinking a few holes they claimed to have found traces of gold and the ruins of an old furnace. But, after a few weeks they left the hill empty-handed.

In the meantime, several shady characters from the community watched from the sidelines, and decided to form a mining company. They enticed several Pocola men to work for them, saying they would be paid with a share of the treasure when found. They went all out to make the area look genuine. Warning signs were posted around the area and shotgun-toting guards patrolled night and day. Near the entrance to the site several old bones were displayed on a rock, claimed by the miners to have been found in the old mine shaft. The public didn't know the bones had really been stolen from a nearby pauper's cemetery. As a result, rumors that the abandoned mine had been found spread through Pocola like a wild fire fanned by a March wind. The crooks took advantage of the ensuing excitement to begin encouraging backers to invest in their good fortune.

They built a dam on Wells Creek, just below the bluff. Then they moved in a boiler and some other impressive equipment attracting others into their scheme. They had some genuine ore samples in their possession which they showed to prospective investors, who

then invested quite heavily in the scheme. The samples they had seen were indeed genuine, but what the investors didn't know was the samples had been stolen from a mine in Arizona by one of the shysters. They lured some pretty prominent backers into their trap, some of the largest merchants from Arkansas and nearby towns in Oklahoma.

In a matter of days the investors learned they had been taken, and confronted the company. After making a few off-color remarks about each other's family heritage a brawl broke out. However, when the dust settled most were not much worse for the battle. Both miners and investors sported a few blacked eyes. Some grinned through swollen lips showing spaces where a tooth had

**In the passing years the old mine has not lost all of its spellbinding charm and even today there is still an old-timer or two living in the town of Pocola who enjoys spinning the yarn about the legendary mine.**

once grown.

Peace was restored to the community, some of the crooks took advantage of the lull and left town. Others stayed and reorganized a new company, which later ransacked the Spiro Mounds.

In the passing years, Buzzard Hill got nothing more than a passing glance. Just prior to the start of World War II, a couple of young miners came to Pocola looking for Buzzard Hill - transients and no one knew anything about either of the pair. They isolated themselves from the community and started their quest for the buried treasure. They undoubtedly knew very little about mining as they went about sinking a shaft on a wide ledge just below the crest of the bluff only guessing as to the old tunnel's location. It seemed their theory was to dig down and intersect the main tunnel then recover the buried gold through their new shaft.

They constructed a crude windless over the newly sunken shaft and attached a large bucket to the end of the rope for bringing out the debris. Both men worked untiringly day after day, each taking his turn at the bottom of the shaft until they had reached a depth of about 50 feet. Late one evening at the close of the day, one was hoisting the other up from the bottom and, as the bucket neared the top, the worn and frayed rope broke. The other watched in horror as his friend and the heavy bucket fell quickly to the bottom of the shaft.

He made a beeline to the nearest house, which lay more than a mile away, to find help to rescue his friend. Later that night, he returned to the bluff and, with the assistance from some local help, freed his friend from the bottom of the shaft. He was dead. The

bucket had fallen on top of the young man and broken his neck.

The surviving partner was still rather closed mouth about who had financed their venture and where they came from. He finally broke his silence however and told them where his friend had lived. Then he enlisted the aid of two local young men to return his friend home for burial. The two locals put the dead man in the back seat of an old car and headed for a small town in southwestern Oklahoma.

After having driven all day, they arrived after dark. Inquiring several times of the local residents, they finally located the dead man's home. A neighbor told them the family was attending services in a nearby church.

After getting directions from the neighbor, they located the church and finally persuaded one of the family members to come out and talk to them. Upon hearing what had happened the family member didn't want anything to do with the dead man. The two good Samaritans were tired and hungry, and with a snoot full of corn whiskey were in no mood to be given the runaround by the dead man's family. In their attempt to console the family and get them to accept the body for burial, a rowdy argument erupted outside the church. Someone called the local marshal and after a few minutes the two men found themselves confined to the local hoosegow for the night.

After being a guest of the local marshal's for the night, the two men had sobered enough to give an account of the incident at the mine. Later that day their story was corroborated by other authorities and both men were released from jail to return home.

Through the passing years the property where the legendary mine is supposed to be hidden has changed hands several times. Today, only a few scars remain from the past mining operations and most of the boulders that gave the bluff its identity have all been bulldozed away. Where countless pieces of equipment once stood among the blackjacks and scrub oaks, a beautiful modern home has been built.

Although the city of Pocola was never able to capitalize on its gold mine, the legendary mine still lays hidden somewhere beneath the rocks of Buzzard Hill. In the passing years the old mine has not lost all of its spellbinding charm and even today there is still an old-timer or two living in the town of Pocola who enjoys spinning the yarn about the legendary mine. Who knows, it may some day catch the ear of a grizzled old prospector who will show up looking for it. Nevertheless, I'm almost certain he will leave as empty-handed as those that came before him.

## Shades shine at state!

Shades of Red, an all-Indian men's fastpitch softball team from Ada, Oklahoma, placed fourth out of 48 teams from across the United States in the 50th annual State All-Indian Men's Fastpitch Softball Tournament held July 12-14 at Wheeler Ballpark in Oklahoma City. The team played ten games overall and earned All-Star team nominations for four of their players with three making the All-Star team - Jimbo Crossley, All-Star catcher; Allen Clay, All-Star shortstop, and Ryan Hurst, All-Star second base. All three are Choctaws. Chickasaw Kevin Wisdom received the All-Star outfielder nomination.

Shades of Red pitchers, Choctaws Hank Williams and Todd Keys, pitched outstandingly and complemented each other well. The younger, powerful hurler, Williams, allowed only six runs in four games as starting pitcher with one save, posting an excellent 3.06 ERA. The legendary Keys showed he's still a force to be reckoned with, posting four wins including one shutout during 26 innings pitched.

On the Saturday evening of the tournament, the 50th anniversary ceremony, held



**Standing are Charles Marshall, Carey Frazier, Clifton Clay, Hank Williams, Todd Keys, Donnie Marshall, Jimbo Crossley and Buddy Parchcorn. In front are Tim Wade, P.J. Franklin, Ryan Hurst, Allen Clay, Brad Jefferson, Kevin Wisdom and Mike Crossley.**

in Eggeling Stadium, was opened with a prayer by Choctaw Rev. Jeff Frazier of Ada. Jeff is a former tournament player,

father of first baseman Carey Frazier and founder of Shades of Red softball and basketball teams.

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