



BISHINIK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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June 2004 Issue

Assistant Chief Bailey recognized as a top regent



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey was honored in May by the Oklahoma State House of Representatives and Oklahoma State Senate in a joint resolution read from the floor recognizing him as the recipient of the 2004 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Western Region Trustee Leadership Award. Assistant Chief Bailey received a standing ovation from the legislators following the presentation. The Assistant Chief was appointed as a

Regent for Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC) since 2001.

"The Choctaw Nation is very proud of the work that Mike Bailey has done to improve education. His efforts through the tribe and through the state as a Regent have provided opportunities to a great number of youth and adults," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "It has been a pleasure to work with Mike for the thirteen years he served as Director of Jones Academy and Executive Director of Education for the Choctaw Nation, and for the seven years he has held the position of Assistant Chief."

"Mike Bailey is a man who has spent much of his life promoting the importance of education. He is truly deserving of the honor," said Eastern Oklahoma State College President Richard Bernard.

Nomination for the award was from the Chairperson of the EOSC Board of Regents, Georgia Tate. She said, "Mike's positive enthusiasm infects all of us and we work together better and more cohesively. His problem solving skills are noteworthy and his talents in getting things accomplished endear him to all."

The Trustee Leadership Award will be presented to Assistant Chief Bailey at a conference luncheon in San Antonio on June 17th.

SOSU, EOSC and Carl Albert College to receive \$50,000 each from tribe

Three institutes of higher learning in the Choctaw Nation will be receiving \$50,000 grants, thanks to an event sponsored by the tribe on May 18. Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Carl Albert College in Poteau and Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton are the recipients of a fundraiser held at the Durant and McAlester Choctaw Gaming Centers.

"Celebrity Waiters" served steak dinners to guests at the casinos at a cost of \$10 per plate. Waiters included Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Council members, college presidents, mayors and state regents. The Choctaw Nation announced after the meal that the tribe was supplementing the dinner profits with gaming revenues to a tune of \$150,000 so that each of the three facilities would be able to have \$50,000 for the upcoming school year.

"We realize how financially strapped colleges and universities are, and were thrilled at the opportunity to assist them," said Chief Pyle.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and SOSU President Glen Johnson stand before the portrait of Chief and Patti Pyle hanging in the university's administration building.

Portrait hangs in halls of SOSU

A photograph of Chief Gregory E. Pyle and his wife, Patti, was placed on the wall of the administration building at Southeastern Oklahoma State University to mark the announcement of an endowed scholarship established by the Chief and his family. The funds are dedicated to providing scholarship support for Native American students, with priority given to members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

SOSU President Glen Johnson honored the Pyles with words of appreciation for their efforts to enhance higher education.

"This scholarship is possible because of the donations of many friends and business leaders," said Chief Pyle. "Their gifts are greatly appreciated and will bless many students with an opportunity to attend this university."

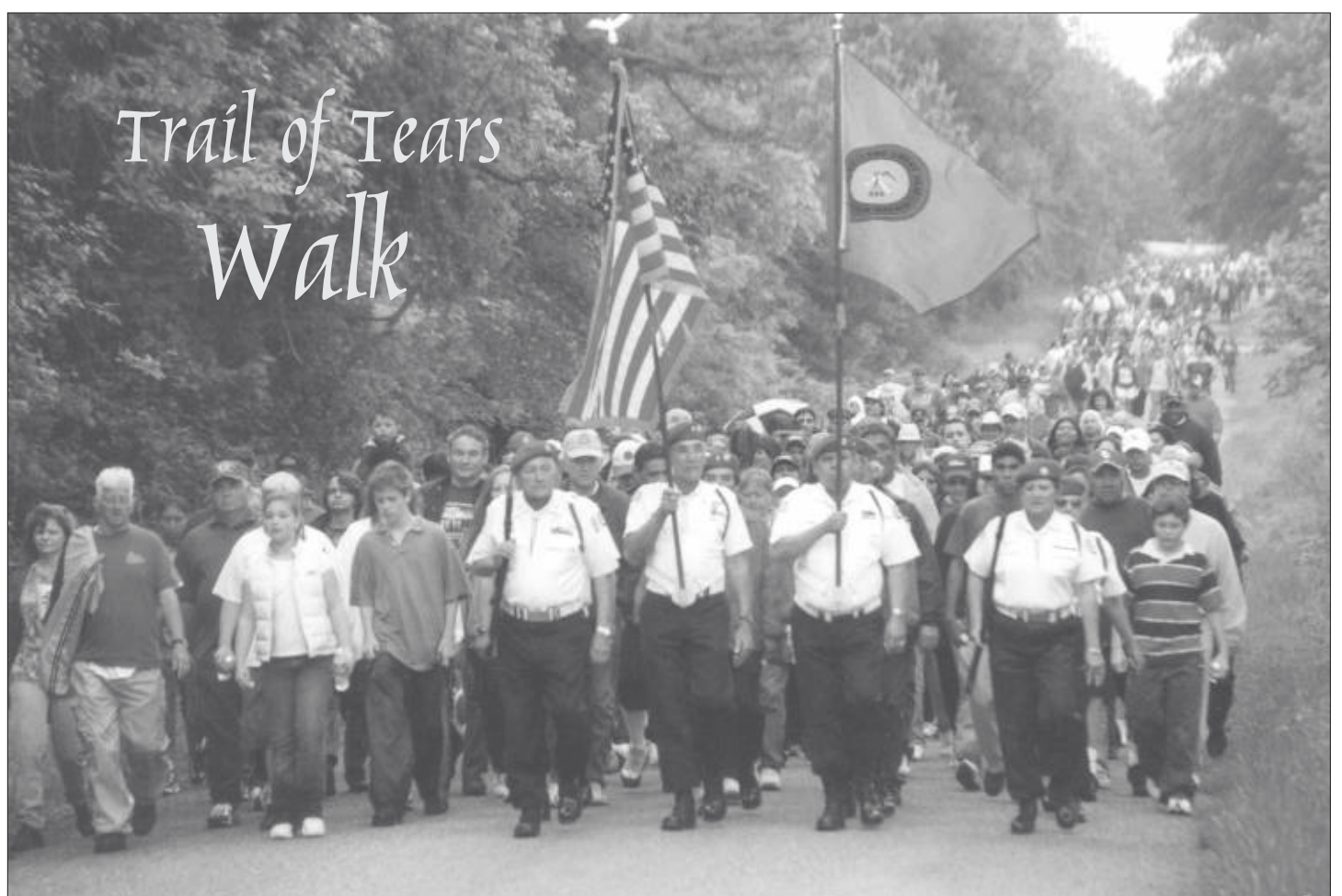
Both Chief and Patti Pyle are alumni of SOSU.

District 6 run-off to be held June 12

A run-off election has been scheduled June 12, 2004, in District 6 between top contenders Joe Ed Coley and Fred Franklin James. Total votes garnered for these two in the May 22 election were Coley, 295; James, 198. Other candidates in the race were Floyd Gene Davis, total votes 40; Carolyn Moore Elgin, total votes 118, and Allen Lane Lyons, total votes 31.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on June 12, with boxes in Buffalo Valley, Red Oak, Wilburton and Quinton.

For more information, you may call the Choctaw Election Board at (580) 924-8280.



Commemorative event begins at historic Skullyville Cemetery

Memorial walks are held each year to honor Choctaws who were removed from their homes to what is now Oklahoma. The 2004 Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk began at the historic Skullyville Cemetery and trekked four miles to the Spiro Choctaw Center. Almost a thousand participants followed the Color Guard as they led the way in unison from the gates of the graveyard down the honeysuckle-lined road.

Visiting the beautiful cemetery is humbling, especially when

dates on tombstones are being read, some inscriptions from the 1830s. The names on the markers are names known from history books - Tandy Walker, Edmond McCurtain and family names such as McKinney, Krebs, Merryman, LeFlore, Lanier and Ainsworth.

The Choctaw Nation acquired the property of Skullyville Cemetery from the Oklahoma Historical Society in January 1993. It is now preserved as the Choctaw Nation Historical Cemetery.

See WALK on Page 14



Area citizens sing beautiful hymns in the Choctaw language to honor James Edwards.

Tombstone unveiled at gravesite of Original Code Talker James Edwards

An American hero of Choctaw heritage was honored in April at a small cemetery in Whitesboro, Oklahoma. One of the original Code Talkers of World War I, James Edwards, received a granite marker at his gravesite, thanks to the U.S. Military and the efforts of Tribal Judge Juanita Jefferson. Mrs. Jefferson's interest in the history of the tribe, as well as having family buried in the same cemetery with Edwards, sparked her interest as to why the only acknowledgment at his grave was from the funeral home when he died.

"I simply contacted the Army and progress was quick from that point," said Jefferson. All veterans are eligible for a military marker, and can choose from a brass footstone or granite headstone. Edwards' stone had never been claimed, so the United States government was thrilled to be able to send the engraved tombstone.

The ceremonial unveiling was highlighted by Chief Gregory E. Pyle reading a Presidential Citation honoring Edwards. His son, also named James Edwards, and other family members were touched deeply at the ceremony. Major General Leroy Sisco, the Rev. Bertram Bobb and Council Speaker Kenny Bryant also spoke to the crowd gathered at the cemetery in memory of Edwards and all the Choctaw Code Talkers.

Family members said they were especially thankful for the 21-gun salute from the Choctaw Color Guard and the beautiful hymns by area senior citizens who, wearing tribal dress, sang in the native language.

Maj. Gen. Sisco commented that he was grateful for the way the Chief and Council supported soldiers. "Many people don't realize today how serious war is until it affects them personally," said Sisco. "God bless the Choctaw Nation, God bless the Code Talkers and their descendants and God bless America."

The Rev. Bobb, who is also a nephew of Edwards, said, "We cannot thank our fellow Americans enough for the courage to fight for the freedom of all men and women. Today, we are thankful to celebrate the unveiling of the tombstone of a Choctaw Code Talker - James Morrison Edwards."

See EDWARDS on Page 3



Bobby Ludlow unveils the engraved tombstone at the gravesite of the World War I Code Talker.

Council allocates for increase in Summer Youth workers

Tribal Council Members discussed in the May 8th meeting that Summer Youth Worker applicants have doubled in numbers over the past few years. In addition to the \$500,410 provided by the Department of Labor, the Tribal Council also designated that \$1,500,000 from Choctaw gaming funds be used to provide for this year's employment program. Over 1,500 young Native Americans, aging from 14 to 21, are expected to participate in the 2004 Choctaw program.

Other highlights of the May Regular Session of Choctaw Tribal Council included the approval to spend gaming revenues to improve the Capitol Grounds facilities. New bathrooms and a concession stand at the Tushka Homma ball fields will be enjoyed by thousands of visitors to the Choctaw Labor Day Festival this year, thanks to an allocation in the amount of \$210,000.

All of the 12 districts in the Choctaw Nation will have a basketball camp this summer, funded with gaming dollars. Each of the camps will have a T-shirt and basketball for each participant.

The Council also approved contributing \$500,000 toward the establishment of a world-class Native American Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City. This facility will hold information on the diverse histories, cultures and achievements of all tribes.

The next Regular Session of the Tribal Council will be June 12th.

Choctaw attends symposium

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you for helping me to attend the American Indian Symposium. Our Choctaw tribe was well represented and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey's presentation was right on. Our Choctaw Nation has so much to be proud of.

Elaine Anderson
Norman, Oklahoma

Traditional shirt or dress pattern

Dear Editor,

I am in need of some help! I am looking for a pattern for a traditional Choctaw men's shirt and for a women's traditional dress. I have been sewing kuspuku (traditional summer lightweight jackets/shirts) for Alaska Native students here in Anchorage. I would appreciate a pattern or close-up picture of Choctaw traditional dress. I would use this to help the students understand part of the Choctaw culture. If anyone can help or send me some pictures I can be e-mailed at showard@scf.cc.

Sandra Williams Howard
3225 E. 18th Circle, Apt. B
Anchorage, AK 99508

Researching ancestry

Dear Editor,

I am researching my family history and would appreciate any information your readers might have on the following individuals. Mary Thomas married a Henry and had a son, Harve Henry. Sarah Josephine West married Peter Star. Harve Henry had a brother, Charlie Henry, who lived somewhere in Oklahoma. Roy Phillips had a sister, Sebrin. Also, Essie Madwell, Grady Star, Myrtle Henry, maiden name Cunningham, had brothers and sisters who died from what was called the fever. Have been told Grady made white crosses for headstones.

Ann Williams
313 C St SE
Ardmore, OK 73401

Haskell student sends thanks

Dear Choctaw Nation and the Durant, Hugo and McAlester offices,

At this time I would like to thank Larry and his staff for the educational scholarship assistance which helped in my being able to attend Haskell Indian Nations University. Without their help I wouldn't have been able to come back to school. I would also like to express my deepest thanks to Charlene and Farron from Hugo, the McAlester people at the plaza and community center and special thanks to my Councilman, Bob Pate. I believe that an education, especially here at Haskell, for all Native Americans, is a spiritual journey. I am just finishing up my second semester. I am majoring in social work with an emphasis on Child Welfare, which I will obtain an AA degree next spring. I plan to continue here at Haskell and earn a bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies. I will be interning at the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation, through the KU Med Center at Kansas City, Kansas, during the months of June and July. It has been a dream of mine since I was a child to help our native people. Thanks to all of you I am able to realize that. Haskell opens up so many doors for native people, to help all native people. I am proud to be an Oklahoma Choctaw, but you can't imagine the overall kinship we all feel here. There are over 150 tribes represented at this university. I hope to someday be able to give back to my own tribe because that's what it's all about.

Connie Hudson
Lawrence, Kansas



Buffalo Valley Baseball Team

State Champions

Dear Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey, and all of the Choctaw Nation,

Thank you so much for your help with our baseball program. Without your support our goals and accomplishments would not have happened – back-to-back Oklahoma state championships and 12 trips to the state tournament. Thanks for making it possible.

Coach Trey Booth
Buffalo Valley Baseball

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

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BISHINIK® 2004



Cameron McBird and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

Tribe shows interest in student activities

Dear Assistant Chief Bailey,

Thank you very much for coming to the Carter County Junior Livestock Premium Sale to bid on my winning pig. I greatly appreciate the Choctaw tribe's interest in this activity. Showing animals is something that I thoroughly enjoy! I raise my own pigs. Each year I try to improve my herd. The premium money you gave will go far. It was an unexpected bonus. Thanks again for your support of our FFA and 4-H Clubs at Lone Grove.

Cameron McBird

Would love to learn art of beading

Dear Editor,

I am a full-blooded Choctaw Indian. My grandmother left me with a beaded necklace and earrings. I would truly love to learn the art, but I live so far away. If it isn't too much trouble, could someone please send me step-by-step illustrations and materials for the projects. I would be happy to send the fee, if required.

Lavada Duncan
2156 N. Ruby St.
Melrose Park, IL 60164-2147

Seeking location of a special aunt

Dear Editor,

I am trying to locate a special aunt of mine. Her last known address was in Lewisville, Texas. Her maiden name is Elizabeth Pat Murphy. Her brother's name is James Lee Murphy (my father). She has one son, David Gardipe, and one daughter, Eva. Anyone with information please contact the Murphy Family, 2624 Catalina Way, Irving, TX 75060. Any information would be greatly appreciated. Yakoke.

Don Murphy

Condolences, prayers for bereaved

Dear Editor,

Our condolences and prayers are with the families and friends of Charley Jones and Randle Durant. They are two great Choctaw men and will be sadly missed. I also express my condolences to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for the tragic loss of two tribal icons.

Johnny Guerrero Jr.
Austin, Texas

FFA member appreciates support

Dear Councilman Perry Thompson,

I appreciate your help and support of my FFA project. Thanks a lot.

Britany Barker

Good to know there are people who care

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you so much for the care package! It's good to know we have people back home who care about us. God bless.

Spc Leslie Montenayor

Soldier enjoys care packages

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for supporting us soldiers. Thank you very much for the care packages you have sent. Everything was very useful.

Pv2 David Peak
U.S. Army, Operation Iraqi Freedom

Clay family extends special thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The family of Mary Francis Clay would like to express our thanks to everyone for their prayers, food, phone calls, love and fellowship during the loss of our mother. A special thank you to Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, District 7 Councilman Jack Austin, CHRs and other Choctaw Nation employees. May God bless each and every one of you.

The family of Mary Francis Clay

East Central student completes education

Dear Chief Pyle,

I am finally graduating East Central University. It has been a long road. The Choctaw Nation helped me financially each and every semester. Without the tribe's support I could not have made it. Thank you and the Choctaw people. I am proud to be Choctaw.

Elizabeth Ann Rice
Ada, Oklahoma

4-H member participates in sale

Dear Choctaw Nation and Councilman James Frazier,

Thank you to the Choctaw Nation and Councilman James Frazier for your support at the Hughes County Premium Sale.

Tyler Bible
Moss 4-H Club



June 28-July 1
Crowder Choctaw Center

Learn to tell Choctaw stories
from the Choctaw elders.

– June 28-30 –

Session 1: 9 a.m.-12 noon

Session 2: 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

July 1: Storytelling for public

All interested Choctaws welcome!
For more information call 918-334-5344

Featuring
Tim
Tingle

Free
Admission

Railroad crossing warning installed

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I live off Hwy. 109 and Hwy. 70 west of Hugo. I wanted to thank you for putting in the railroad crossing warning mechanism on Hwy. 109. It is such a relief to know that friends and family will be able to travel that road more safely. That area gets a lot of traffic and I believe you have provided an incredibly necessary improvement to Choctaw County.

Marla Maple
Hugo, Oklahoma

Reading the news is like tiny trip home

Dear Editor,

I enjoy receiving my Bishinik news each month and also the beautiful Christmas cards and calendars. Reading our news is like a tiny trip home. I spent a happy childhood in the Boswell area. My mother, Ada LeFlore, was an original enrollee.

I enjoy reading the Rev. Bertram Bobb's column. He makes the Bible so easy to understand. I get helpful information on health from your health page. I admire each picture of our handsome Choctaw people. Thank you.

Muriel Smith
Red Bluff, California

OU College of Medicine graduate

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Office and Chief Pyle for helping my son, Warren Glen Tyon, achieve his academic goal. Warren graduated May 29 from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Medicine. Without financial assistance, he would not have been able to achieve his dream of becoming a doctor. It has been a tough road to get to this point in his life.

Merry Sunday
Midwest City, Oklahoma

FFA student appreciates generosity

Dear Assistant Chief Bailey,

Thank you so much for your generous donation supporting my FFA project. I grew up in Houston, Texas. My adjustment to country life and raising a show calf was both funny and difficult, but very rewarding. It was my first and only show. I wasn't sure if many people knew me or who would bid on my steer, but you did. Thank you and God bless.

Ashley Gibson
Kinta FFA

Thanks from the Williams family

Dear Choctaw Nation,

We would like to express our gratitude to Chief Gregory Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and the staff of the tribal complex. Just to name a few, Brian, Charlie, Brenda, Sabrina and Connie, for the flowers and prayers. We would also like to thank the Broken Bow Choctaw Casino and the Garvin Travel Plaza for food, flowers and many other things they sent. We would like to thank Renee, Junall, Bertha and Joyce from the Broken Bow Clinic for the flowers. We deeply appreciate each and every one of you for everything.

The family of Frances Williams

Support allows students to improve skills

Dear Assistant Chief Bailey,

I would like to say thank you for supporting me this year in the Carter County Jr. Livestock Show. The donation that you have given me on my lamb is greatly appreciated. It's people like that who make it possible for myself and many others to continue to improve our knowledge and leadership skills in the agricultural industry. Thank you so much and I hope to see you there again next year!

Virginia Whitley
Wilson FFA

Reunions

Williams

The Williams family reunion will be held on June 26 at the Stagging "W" Ranch in Idabel, Oklahoma. The family of the late Dennis Williams Jr. would like to welcome anyone of the same bloodline to come join the rest of the family for a good time and a meal from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. This is the second year the reunion is being held at the home of Nathan and Donna Williams. For directions, contact Nathan Williams or Bertha Bason at 214-748-6167.

Moore-Pugh

A family reunion for descendants of Edmond Moore and Tilman Pugh will be July 2, 3 and 4. For more information call Alvin at 580-244-3542.

Jones

The fourth annual Jones family reunion will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 17 at Beavers Bend Park. A picnic shelter has been reserved at the far end of the park in section C. When you arrive at the park office, drive straight ahead through the junction and follow as it winds around behind the office to section C area. Take the outer road which is Acorn Road. It makes a full circle, bringing you up to the shelter. Please inform other Jones descendants to come and join us. Due to our first choice location being reserved by another group, we had to find another spot quickly. For more information, call Shirley Cogburn at 417-781-6202.



Choctaw Nation Home Finance

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We lend money in all 50 states and if you qualify you could apply for up to \$333,700 with 1 to 3% down with a conventional fixed rate for 30 years – and if eligible, Choctaw Nation Home Finance will finance 2% of your down payment and all of your closing as a second mortgage.

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

Also, if you live near one of the following areas and want to learn more about homeownership or refinancing, please call the office to register to attend a homebuyer class.

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
June 10	Coalgate (Modular Plant)	5:30 p.m.
June 15	Stigler	5:30 p.m.
June 24	Durant	5:30 p.m.

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Senior citizens enjoy day at BRD

Senior citizens of the Choctaw Nation were honored recently at a day set aside just for them. Buses were scheduled all across the tribal boundaries to bring over 700 senior citizens to the Blue Ribbon Downs racetrack for a luncheon, contests and entertainment.

Live racing is not scheduled again at Blue Ribbon Downs until August, but we all got to watch a few of the horses that are housed at the racetrack as their jockeys put them through their paces on the track. When asked how many people present would be interested in having a Senior Citizen Day at the track when live racing begins again at Sallisaw, about three fourths of the hands went up. Since there were so many wanting to visit Blue Ribbon Downs when the horses are running, we plan to have a special Senior Day in early autumn.

The seniors of the Choctaw Nation had a great time at their luncheon with hat contests, singing contests and door prize drawings.

One of the entertainment highlights was a skit put on by the Salad Sisters (better known as a group of employees at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center).

The goal of the Salad Sisters is to educate their audience with tips for better nutrition and a healthier lifestyle. This message has been a consistent effort of a Task Force that we initiated several years ago. Events such as poster contests, community meetings, health walks and runs, and school programs are a few ways the tribe has promoted better health for the people of the Choctaw Nation. Exercise equipment has also been purchased and placed in the Community Centers so that senior citizens and community members may have access to things such as treadmills and stationary bicycles.

Remember, Healthy Living = Longer Life. I look forward to seeing everyone who attended Senior Citizen Day at next year's event.



From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

Gaming dollars do a lot for the communities

Tribal gaming dollars have helped many individuals and communities both in and out of the Choctaw Nation boundaries. The expectation of a larger clientele base and prospect of increased profits are the reasons the tribe is building a new casino and entertainment complex in Durant and increasing the size of the casinos in Pocola and Grant. The profits from these and other businesses of the tribe are spent on programs and services that are greatly needed.

Just a couple of months ago, Premium Sales were held for stock animals raised by youth in FFA and 4-H programs. The Chief, Council and I attended as many sales as possible to ensure that the livestock sold for a good price. \$361,000 in gaming profits were used for these purchases. The students and their families were very thankful that the tribe had bid on their animals.

Thanks to money made at the casinos, the Choctaw Nation has been able to build community centers, help fire departments and schools, provide for youth scholarships, support community efforts and fundraisers, donate to a statewide cultural center, give emergency assistance to individuals, promote national education on tribal language and offer free basketball clinics and golf camps for young people. These are only a few examples of the many things the tribe is doing to improve lives.

We want to continue doing positive things for people and communities through the tribe. A lot depends on the result of the November 2nd ballot, which will include a question on the gaming compact. The agreement will be good for both the state and the tribe, and I hope that you all will go to the polls and vote in favor of the gaming compact.



Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

It was a privilege to have visited with many of our fellow Choctaws and friends during the Trail of Tears Walk, Chahta Clan gathering in Bakersfield, California, in District Princess Pageants, and in local community and senior citizen gatherings in May. We are thankful for the blessings and freedom God has allowed us to come together for these occasions. We are also thankful for the testimonies of Christians expressing God's love and blessings on them.

Now we look at some thoughts of God's love in a very familiar verse of scripture from the Gospel of John. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Jesus Christ, God the Father's only begotten Son, left Heaven to become man to pay the penalty for sin, which is death, in our place. This is the reason for Jesus' coming to this earth.

We are reminded, though John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world..." and other scriptures say that God is a God of love, it also tells us that God is a God of judgment. One day you and I are going to give an account of our words, thoughts, our motives to Almighty God.

In the beginning God did not create man like other creatures. He gave to man what he never gave to other creatures. He gave to man the gift of choice. Freedom of choice.

In the beginning there was friendship. God and man walked together and talked together and

planned a wonderful world together in which there would be no suffering, no earthquakes, no tornadoes, no war, no hate, no pride, no death. Then something happened to ruin that fellowship to spoil that work, to ruin this wonderful plan of God.

Oh yes, Satan was present then as he is today. He lied to man then, as he is deceiving and lying to man today.

The first man, Adam, deliberately turned away from God and broke God's law and so today we are living in a world of rebellion against God. The body and mind of society are sick. You can't hardly walk in the streets without getting mugged, robbed, or raped. Yes, something is desperately wrong with man. Something is wrong with the human nature. What is wrong with man and our generation today?

When we study the Bible, we learn these things will happen when we won't listen to God, when we won't listen to the Bible.

What is the answer? Unless you turn around, make an about-face, that is repentance, and turn to God, the answer is death. This is the answer. Not only a solution to your problem, but also a solution to the problems of the world.

We learn from the study of God's Word, the Bible, that there are three kinds of death.

First, there is the natural death. The graveyard testifies to the fact that everyone is going to die. I read this verse from the Book of Hebrews 9:27: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

But there is another death known as spiritual. We have a soul, a soul which was created in the image of God and was made for fellowship with God. Today, the soul is separated from God by SIN. This means a soul that does not know Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior is spiritually dead.

You can be a millionaire or an outstanding personality and still be miserable and unhappy. There are many of our Indian people who don't have a dime but they know Jesus Christ and they are happy. There is peace and joy in their hearts.

Then the Bible tells us of a third death. It takes place when you die and go out into eternity still separated from God, this eternal death. Jesus used these terms in speaking of the third death. He used words such as "lost," "perished," "condemned



already," "punishment," "fire," and "hell." And you can accept them or reject them. All of these words indicated something terrible.

Yet we read in John 3:16 that God loved the world, and did not want it to perish. He looked down at the wickedness of this world and said, "I want to save man. I want to save him from destroying himself and the judgment that faces him." So God became a man and this is who Jesus Christ was - the God-Man. He was fully God and He was fully man. God in the flesh. (John 1:14)

Jesus did not come here just to teach and to heal and to feed the hungry. He came for another purpose: To die. He died on the Cross. They put spikes in His hands and feet and thorns on His head and I can hear Him cry, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" In that awful moment, in a way we don't understand, God took your sins and mine and laid them on His Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I don't know how it happened but He took the hell and judgment I deserved. He died in your place. He died in my place. He died for the sins of the whole world. And that was God saying to each one of us: "I love you."

They put Jesus in the grave and thought that was the end of Him. But on the third day, He arose from the grave, and today He lives.

And He will give you life, because He is alive, there is hope for everyone of us. You can have everlasting life and abundant life now. Will you trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior today?

Pray for our service men and women in uniform. Pray for America. Pray for the Native American people and the First Nation of Canada. Pray for the leaders of our countries and Indian Nations.

Edwards continued from Page 1

Their duties were secret and they remained "secret" until declassified many years later." Bobb also gave some insight into how the Code Talkers were first chosen.

"Captain E.W. Horner approached a group of Choctaw soldiers from Company E and talked about the problem with Germans intercepting coded messages and decoding them. James Edwards said, 'Maybe they can't talk Choctaw.'" Bobb smiled and said the mission was successful. "Within 72 hours the

German soldiers were retreating and two months later the war was over."

The Rev. Bobb also credited Edwards with putting the hymn, "He Loves Me, He Loves Me," also known as Hymn #48 in the Choctaw Hymnal, to words in his native language.

Chief Pyle voiced his appreciation of all the work accomplished to make the unveiling a reality. "We have an outstanding lady in the Choctaw tribe who is always willing to speak out at organizations on national levels -

Juanita Jefferson. She has a place of honor in the Choctaw Nation as one of our judges, and she has put forth an effort for several months to make this happen."

Other Code Talkers from the first World War are Ben Carterby, Solomon Bond Louis, Albert Billy, Mitchell Bobb, Victor Brown, Joseph Oklahombi, Walter Veach, Calvin Wilson, Robert Taylor, Pete Maytubby, Benjamin Hampton, Jeff Nelson, Tobias Frazier, George Edwin Davenport, Joseph H. Davenport and Otis Leader.

Choctaw Nation All Indian Rodeo Region 8 Results for May 16, 2004

Jr. Barrels - 1st performance

- 1st: Ashlee Sharp, Choctaw, of Hartshorne
- 2nd: Jena Rae Kellum, Choctaw, of Hugo
- 3rd: Montana Dill, Choctaw, of Boswell

Jr. Steer Riding

- 1st: William Parker, Choctaw, of Wright City

Bareback

- 1st: Jeremy Shed, Creek, of Holdenville

Calf Roping - 1st performance

- 1st: Jack Carlile, Cherokee, of Tahlequah
- 2nd: Shane Ross, Cherokee, of Tahlequah
- 3rd: Shane Slack, Choctaw, of Idabel

Steer Wrestling - 1st performance

- 1st: Howard Edmundson, Creek, of Dewar
- 2nd: Shane Sparks, Choctaw, of Allen
- 3rd: Josh Anderson, Creek, of Eufaula

Break Away - 1st performance

- Split 1/2: Marci Jackson, Cherokee, of Durant
- Split 1/2: Erica Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell

Open Barrels - 1st performance

- 1st: Jennifer Weaver, Cherokee, of Vinita
- 2nd: Micaela Carlile, Cherokee, of Tahlequah
- 3rd: Jessica Anderson, Choctaw, of Eddy, Texas
- 4th: Sherri Kelley, Cherokee, of Tahlequah

Bull Riding - 1st performance

- 1st: Toby Bean, Choctaw, of Bethel

Team Roping - 1st performance

- 1st: Corbin Warren, Cherokee, of Kansas
- Scott Daily, Cherokee, of Arkansas City
- 2nd: Mike Bacon, Choctaw, of Soper
- Keven Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- 3rd: Keith Bacon, Choctaw, of Durant
- Doyle Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- Split 4/5: Rod Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- Bryan Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- Split 4/5: Shane Slack, Choctaw, of Idabel
- Mike Bacon, Choctaw, of Soper
- Split 6th: J.D. Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- Ernie Bacon, Choctaw, of Ada
- Split 6th: Howard Edmundson, Creek, of Dewar
- Corbin Warren, Cherokee, of Kansas

Jr. Barrels - 2nd performance

- 1st: Alex Winship, Choctaw, of Hugo
- 2nd: Micaela Carlile, Cherokee, of Tahlequah
- 3rd: Tanya Sharp, Choctaw, of Haileyville

Jr. Steer Riding

- 1st: Lane Scott, Choctaw, of Ada

Bareback

- 1st: Jeremy Shed, Creek, of Holdenville

Calf Roping - 2nd performance

- 1st: Bruce Posey, Creek, of Boynton
- 2nd: Howard Edmundson, Creek, of Dewar
- 3rd: Jack Carlile, Cherokee, of Tahlequah

Steer Wrestling - 2nd performance

- 1st: Howard Edmundson, Creek, of Dewar
- 2nd: Alan Murdaugh, Creek, of Stuart
- 3rd: Colby Stufflebean, Cherokee, of McAlester

Break Away - 2nd performance

- 1st: Brenna Winship, Choctaw, Hugo
- 2nd: Jessi Thompson, Choctaw, of Calera
- 3rd: Erica Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell

Open Barrels - 2nd performance

- 1st: Pam Williams, Choctaw, of Skiatook
- 2nd: Sherri Kelley, Cherokee, of Tahlequah
- 3rd: Debbie Calicote, Cherokee, of Tahlequah
- 4th: Brandie Coble, Cherokee, of Bartlesville

Bull Riding - 2nd performance

Ground money paid

Team Roping - 2nd performance

- 1st: Mike Bacon, Choctaw, of Soper
- Kevin Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- 2nd: Howard Edmundson, Creek, of Dewar
- Scott Daily, Cherokee, of Arkansas City
- 3rd: Shawnee Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- Barry Dill, Choctaw, of Boswell
- 4th: Davey Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- Keven Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- 5th: Shawnee Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- John Trent, Choctaw, of Soper
- 6th: Shane Slack, Choctaw, of Idabel
- Mike Bacon, Choctaw, of Soper



Charlotte Jackson receives FFA award

District 5 Councilperson Charlotte Jackson received the 2004 Oklahoma FFA Award during the 2004 Oklahoma State FFA Convention. Pictured with Councilperson Jackson, center, are Keota FFA members Mr. Teel, Amy Teel, Erica Ladd, T.J. Hearten and Jeff Johnson.

46th Annual Gospel Singing

7 p.m. • June 19

St. Matthew Presbyterian Church

Broken Bow, Oklahoma

MC: Henry Battist

Respect for Mind, Body and Spirit

TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING REALLY PRICELESS – YOUR MEMORY!

Get a free Memory Check-up at your Community Center!

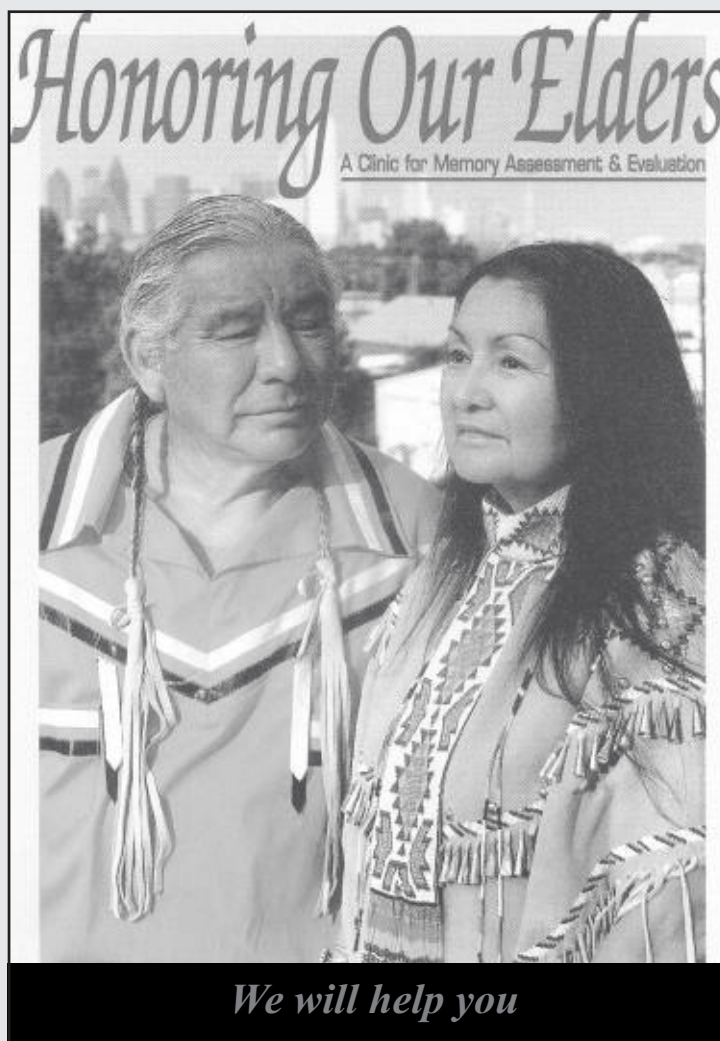
- The Honoring Our Elders Memory Clinic Staff will offer individual, private memory testing at your Community Center. If you, or someone you know, are currently experiencing problems with your memory, we encourage you to attend the free memory check-up.
- Senior citizens who are not having memory-related problems are also encouraged to participate.
- CDIB is required.
- For more information or questions please call 918-329-6302 or 918-522-4719.

Memory Check-Up Schedule for Choctaw Community Centers

(Dates subject to change)

- June 16:** Durant Community Center
- June 23:** Broken Bow Community Center
- July 7:** Bethel Community Center
- August 11:** Talihina Community Center
- August 25:** Idabel Community Center
- September 22:** Wilburton Community Center
- October 6:** McAlester Community Center
- October 27:** Crowder Community Center

Sponsored by:
Honoring Our Elders Memory Clinic
Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, Talihina, OK



Healthy Lifestyles

Healthy Living = Longer Life

Healthy eating begins at the grocery store. Before you head to your local grocery store, there are a few steps that can make your trip easier and help you pick the most nutritious foods available.

Keep these tips in mind to get started down the right aisle:

- Plan your meals – make a menu for a few days or a week at a time. This allows you the chance to plan well-balanced meals for yourself and family.
- Start your list once meals are planned and add to it as you think of other items.
- Eat before shopping. DO NOT go to the store while hungry. You will likely buy things you don't need to eat.
- Choose whole-grain bread, unsalted crackers, and cereals that are not sugar coated.
- Use poly- or monounsaturated oils such as canola and olive. Use cooking methods that require little or no fat such as boil, broil, grill, bake or steam.
- Fat-free or 1% fat milk provide slightly more nutrients than whole milk and 2% fat milk. However, they are much lower in fat, saturated fat, cholesterol and calories. If you are used to whole milk products, you may find it easier to taper off slowly.
- Sherbet or sorbet have less saturated fat and cholesterol than regular ice cream.
- Fruits and vegetables will give you vitamins, minerals and fiber with few calories. Stock up on fresh fruits and vegetables to eat as finger-food snacks and desserts. Canned fruits and vegetables sometimes contain more sugar and sodium than fresh.
- Read labels when buying soups, and choose those lower in sodium and saturated fat.
- Try fat-free baked goods. However, be sure to check on the calorie content per serving.
- Choose cuts of meat that have the least amount of visible fat. Trim off the visible fat before cooking.
- Choose processed sandwich meats that are low in sodium and saturated fat such as turkey and chicken.
- Always read your labels to know serving size, calories and nutrient content.

Interdisciplinary training has proven importance of team approach

Southeast Oklahoma Area Health Education Center, a federally funded program, recently established an interdisciplinary program which brings together a group of students from the areas of medicine, physician assistant, pharmacy, and optometry to collaborate in their efforts to better care and manage the diabetic Native American population of Southeastern Oklahoma. The Choctaw Nation Health Care Center has graciously housed and provided the facility in which the students learn and participate in areas that are an integral part of diabetic health care. The students are also involved in the areas of podiatry, dentistry, dietetics, physical therapy, social services, behavioral health and diabetic patient education.

Upon diagnosis, the diabetic patient is managed by a case manager at the Choctaw Nation Diabetic Wellness Center. The Diabetic Wellness Center also is home to an endocrinologist, a podiatrist, a physician assistant, and a nurse practitioner who specifically care for diabetics. They work closely in conjunction with a certified diabetic educator, a registered dietician, and an exercise program manager. This group of health care professionals joins together in a combined effort to provide the optimal and most efficient method of managing diabetic patients at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center.

Case managers at the Diabetic Wellness Center review patients' charts the day before their appointment to determine what laboratory test is needed. They also ensure that patients keep regular appointments with their optometrist, podiatrist, dentist, dietitian, and certified diabetic educator. The case manager will also make necessary referrals for immunizations and other screening procedures.

Because diabetic retinopathy is one of the leading causes of new blindness in the United States, standard management of

diabetic patients includes an annual dilated eye exam. If signs of diabetic eye disease are discovered, Choctaw Nation Hospital has a retinal specialist and ophthalmologist on staff to intervene surgically or provide consult to the optometrists on staff.

Diabetic neuropathy is the concern of the podiatrist because it is a leading cause of diabetic foot ulcers and potential amputation. The podiatrist sees the diabetic patient to rule out diabetic neuropathy and to educate patients about the importance of proper foot care. Patients are also taught to check their feet daily. In the event of an amputation, physical therapists play a key role in returning patients to their previous quality of life. The Diabetic Wellness Center also houses two orthotics who customize orthotic inserts and shoe fitting who all work in an interdisciplinary approach to care for the diabetic patient.

Diabetics are encouraged to make annual dental checkups. Diabetic patients often suffer periodontal disease related to poor blood sugar control. Periodontal diseases include inflamed gum lines, which could lead to infection that can further complicate diabetes.

Dieticians meet with diabetics annually to discuss how diet contributes to blood sugar control. Some diabetic patients have been successfully managing their diabetes by diet alone, while others have been able to reduce their dependence on medication for sugar control. A dietician's goal is not to eliminate the favorite foods of patients, but incorporate them into a healthier eating habit. Diabetic educators also work side-by-side with the dieticians to educate patients about the disease process of diabetes, its complications, and ways to manage this potentially devastating disease.

Due to the potential devastating effects of diabetes, patients often require the services of behavior health professionals to encourage them through their emo-

tional battles that accompany the physical lifestyle changes. Behavior health department staffs two full-time psychiatrists and four therapists. Approximately 50 to 60% of the patients seen at this department are diabetics. Most of these diabetic patients battle comorbid depression and other psychiatric illnesses. Social services also help patients overcome barriers in their diabetes management, including monetary support.

Choctaw Nation Health Care Center also has a family medicine department which sees 100-130 patients a day. Approximately 18-20% of its patients are diabetics, but many of them have comorbid conditions, such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Physicians and PAs use the information gathered by the disciplines mentioned above to further manage and adjust patients' medications in treatment of diabetes as a whole.

Once the patient reaches the pharmacy, the pharmacist fills the diabetic medications only after screening them to avoid possible interactions with their other medications. The pharmacist then speaks with the patient, reinforcing and clarifying the counseling they received by the other health care professionals, as well as adding a little extra information about their new medications. Because this is the last stop before the patient leaves the hospital, any unanswered questions by the patient are also addressed here.

Diabetes is a complex disease that requires an interdisciplinary approach to treatment. At the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, diabetic patients have the benefit of a wide variety of specialists to manage and coordinate their care. In the fight against diabetes, teamwork among health care professionals is always in the patients' best interest. Not only is teamwork in the best interest of the patient, it is the only way to effectively manage diabetes.



Holly Cooper, SEOK AHEC Coordinator; Tamy Perng, medical student from OSUHC-College of Osteopathic Medicine; Faith Dudley, optometry student from NSU-Oklahoma College of Optometry; Britney Hawkins, pharmacy student from SWOSU-College of Pharmacy; Cody Proctor, PA student from OUHSC, and Dr. Cook, M.D., Program C0-Director.

Tips on handling a "choosy" eater

What would you do?

– Dakota won't eat anything green – he even refuses a whole meal if one green pea appears on his plate.

– LaHoma is interested in everything at the table BUT eating.

– Dillon gets upset when one food on his plate touches another.

– Keota won't eat anything but an orange or a banana; two days ago she'd only eat peanut butter sandwiches.

"Choosy" eating is a child-size step toward growing up and showing independence.

In fact, what seems like a challenge to you may be an early step toward making food choices. A child's "No" doesn't always mean no. What seems "choosy" may just be your child's awkward first steps in learning to make

WIC

WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN

decisions. **What appears to be "choosy" eating may instead be a smaller appetite.**

Preschool-age children grow and develop at a slower rate than toddlers do. If left alone, most children become hearty eaters again when their body's growth pattern requires more food for energy.

The best advice for you: relax and be patient!

Learn how to handle eating challenges and how to avoid conflict. That way, your child won't learn to use foods as a way to exert control.

TEN EFFECTIVE WAYS TO HANDLE A "CHOOSY" EATER

1. Treat food jags casually since food jags don't last long anyway.
2. Consider what a child eats over several days not just at each meal. Most kids eat more food variety than a parent thinks.
3. Trust your child's appetite rather than force a child to eat everything on the plate. Forcing a child to eat more encourages overeating.
4. Set reasonable time limits for the start and end of a meal then remove the plate quietly. What's reasonable depends on each child. **Stay positive and avoid criticizing or calling any child a "picky eater."** Children believe what you say!

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY PROGRAM

July Calendar

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

Choctaw Nation WIC

Serving the Choctaw Nation at 14 sites

SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Thurs. & 1st, 3rd, 4th Wed.
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	Daily
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30	Daily
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	Every Monday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	Every Thursday

Nursery News

Blake Austin Witmer

Blake Austin Witmer was welcomed into the world on September 19, 2003. He weighed 6 pounds 6 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. Proud parents are Nicole Harrison and Danny Witmer. Blake is the grandson of Eddie and Krista Harrison, great-grandson of Kent and Margaret Callahan and great-great-grandson of Helen Callahan.



Koda Michael Hudson

Keeley Nicole Hudson would like to announce the birth of her baby brother, Koda Michael Hudson. Koda was born at 8:35 a.m. December 30, 2003, in Tahahina, Oklahoma, weighing 9 pounds 3 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Parents are Dustin and Tasha Hudson of Smithville, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Fred and Dimple Wickson of Hugo, Oklahoma, and Corinne Hudson of Smithville, Oklahoma. Uncle and aunt, Danny and Nikki Vantrees, and Jarrett, Jaden and Logen are all of Hugo.



James Waylon Speakman

Proud parents Tim and Kristen Speakman would like to announce the birth of their son, James Waylon "J.W." He was born at 3:58 p.m. April 3, 2004, at Jordan Valley Hospital in West Jordan, Utah. He weighed 6 pounds 3 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. Grandparents are Jim and Cynthia Kaufman, Earl Speakman and Edie Hecomovich.



Remington Scott Goines

Ashton and Jace would like to announce the birth of their brother, Remington Scott Goines. Remington was born at 8 p.m. March 16, 2004, at Carl Albert Indian Hospital in Ada, Oklahoma. He weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and was 19.9 inches long. Proud parents are Scott and April Goines of Ashland, Oklahoma. He is the grandson of Lottie Flanary and Robert and Debbie Goines, all of Poteau, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Anna Flanary and Buck and Ellie Nickles, all of Poteau, and Earlene Carter of Chico, California. Remington also has one aunt and two uncles, Angie Goines of Panama, Oklahoma, Justin James of Poteau, Oklahoma, and Joe Hardy of Fort Smith, Arkansas.



Ethan Cheveyo Bigfeather

Lap and Joyce Tran would like to announce the arrival of their grandson. Ethan Cheveyo Bigfeather was born April 22, 2004, to Cindy and Mitchell Bigfeather. Ethan is also welcomed by his cousins, Hailey Brown, Corey Brown and Wade Minyard, Uncle Lap Tran Jr. and Aunt Ann Minyard.



D'Shayla Marie Bohanan

Misty, Brandi and Uncle Dana Jr. proudly announce the birth of their niece, D'Shayla. She was born on March 9, 2004, weighing 8 pounds 14 ounces and was 19 inches long. D'Shayla is the daughter of Ashley Bohanan. She is the granddaughter of Cindy Cusher of Pickens, Oklahoma, and Dana Bohanan of Denison, Texas. Great-grandparents are Mildred Cusher of Pickens, Oklahoma, Haskell and Ella Bohanan of Bethel, Oklahoma, and Betty Morales of Houston, Texas.

We would also like to wish Hailey Cusher a happy belated birthday. She turned 11 on March 9.



Eli Andry Allison

Eli Andry Allison was welcomed into the world on December 15, 2003. Proud parents are Tyson and Jennifer (Andry) Allison of Woodbury, Minnesota. Proud grandparents are Wilma Claudine (Loveless) Allison-Feest and Albert Feest and Linda Andry, all of Racine, and the late Duane Allison. Eli is the great-grandson of Wilma (Laymon) Boudreau of Durant, Oklahoma, R.C. Loveless of Texas, Vera Mae Andry and the late Oatis Andry of Indiana. He is the great-great-grandson of Thelma (Beames) and Charlie Laymon; great-great-great-grandson of original enrollee Josiah and Minnie Elbe (Sauls) Beames, and great-great-great-great-grandson of James and Amy (Folsom) Beames.



Choctaw Nation GED Classes

– **Pittsburg County** –
Beginning June 14, 2004
Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
EOSC Campus, 1802 E. College Ave., McAlester

– **Choctaw County** –
Beginning June 14, 2004
Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Head Start, Hugo

– **McCurtain County** –
Beginning June 15, 2004
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center, Broken Bow

– **Atoka County** –
Beginning June 15, 2004
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Atoka Community Center, Atoka

The class will meet two days a week for approximately 3 months. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 (per day) transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Linda Tyler or Kathy Springfield at the Durant office, (800) 522-6170 or (580) 924-8280, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.

Prevent Heat Stress

The Safety Development Department wants to remind people that heat stress is a problem during these warmer periods and that using extra precaution can help keep you from getting ill. Whatever your reasons for being outside, whether work or play, use these common sense tips to help keep you cool.

- ▶ Drink plenty of fluids – water preferably. Beverages containing caffeine can dehydrate you. They can fool you into thinking that you are not thirsty, when actually your body could be dehydrated.
- ▶ Try to plan a work schedule that is more demanding in the mornings or in the evenings when the temperature is lower.
- ▶ Wear light-colored clothing to help reflect the sun and also wearing loosely fitting, breathable clothing will make the day a lot cooler as well.
- ▶ When working outside it is a must to take breaks out of the hot sun in a shady area.
- ▶ If you have prescription medication, make sure that the effects of the heat won't have an adverse effect on you. This can be found out by contacting your doctor.
- ▶ If you have elderly people in your family or elderly friends, make routine checks on the cooling system at their house to be sure it's working properly.
- ▶ Finally, know that nausea and dizziness are symptoms of heat stress. If you have these symptoms, get out of the heat and seek medical help if needed.

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



CARES staff discusses partnership

The Choctaw Nation CARES Project was recently visited by the Carl Albert Community Mental Health System Administrative Staff and Pittsburg County System of Care Coordinator. The team met to discuss a possible partnership for meeting the needs of families with children experiencing a temporary emotional disharmony.

Pictured are Debbie Smith, CACMHC OP Supervisor; Thomas Potter, CACMHC SOC Coordinator; Kathryn Pitchford, CARES Project Coordinator; Roger Jones, CACMHC Director, and Jack Austin Jr., CARES Project Clinical/Youth Coordinator.



Whitmore is Outstanding Intern of the Year

Dr. Linda Massey and Gay Miller of East Central University presented Patsy Whitmore with the 2003 Outstanding Intern of the Year Award. Patsy Whitmore is a Substance Abuse Counselor at Chi Hullo Li Women's Residential Treatment Center in Tahihina, Oklahoma. She is the granddaughter of Gladice Barnhill Wilkinson, who was an original enrollee.

Patsy would like to thank the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and staff of the Higher Education Department for all their support and help while furthering her education.

Pictured are Dr. Linda Massey, Patsy Whitmore and Gay Miller.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Oklahoma Region

The BIA Eastern Oklahoma Region is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- Legal Administrative Specialist (Probate) GS-11, Miami, OK
- Legal Instruments Examiner GS-6/7/8, Muskogee, OK
- Realty Specialist GS-11/12, Muskogee, OK
- Realty Specialist GS-7/9, Muskogee, OK
- Superintendent GS-13, Okmulgee, OK
- Superintendent GS-13/14, Pawhuska, OK
- Superintendent GS-13, Wewoka, OK
- Deputy Superintendent - Trust Services GS-12, Okmulgee, OK
- Deputy Superintendent - Trust Services GS-12, Ada, OK
- Surveying Technician GS-7/8/9, Muskogee, OK
- Highway Engineer (2 positions) GS-11/12, Muskogee, OK

**Excellent salary and benefits package.
For additional information contact
Human Resources, Anadarko, OK, at 405-247-1655
Equal Opportunity Employer**

American Indian Credit Outreach program expanded

A unique approach designed to address the agriculture credit needs of American Indian communities has now expanded into Oklahoma. The National Tribal Development Association is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation located in Box Elder, Montana. The pilot project, originally conducted in ten western states, has shown a significant increase in the number of FSA loans made to American Indian farmers.

NTDA is in the process of implementing Phase III of the National Farm Service Agency (FSA) American Indian Credit Outreach Initiative into the state of Oklahoma. NTDA is sponsoring the availability of an expanded USDA-sponsored credit outreach service targeted specifically for American Indian farmers.

This program will incorporate outreach, education and FSA loan application preparation services to American Indian farmers, ranchers and youth.

Loans available through FSA include Guaranteed Farm Ownership, Farm Operating, Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, Direct Farm Ownership, and Rural Youth Loans. If you are an American Indian farmer in need of assistance in applying for a loan, please contact your Credit Outreach Liaison:

Janet Johnson
1402-C East Lindsey
Norman, OK 73071
Ph: 405-310-6513
Fax: 405-310-6514
or e-mail:
janet@indiancreditoutreach.com

For more program information, check out our website at www.indiancreditoutreach.com.

Community Health Representatives reach out



Girl Power! – Hitch Your Dreams to a Star!

The Community Health Representatives, CHRs, completed two dynamic "Girl Power! – Hitch Your Dreams to a Star!" projects. The projects, held April 9 and 17 at Tushka Homma, were conducted for American Indian girls in fifth and sixth grades. These 142 young ladies were taught important life skills such as standing up to peer pressure, self-esteem, advertising's impact on choices, nutrition, Choctaw culture, and dealing with stress as well as physical and emotional changes.



Ohoyo Homma, Mind - Body - Spirit

"Ohoyo Homma, Mind - Body - Spirit," a unique program designed by the women of the CHR department for working American Indian women of the nation, was held on April 24 at Tushka Homma. Program objectives included confidence building, stress reduction, meditation techniques, self-esteem, cancer prevention, heart disease and health screening activities, as well as a make-over for each of the 44 women in attendance.

Sunset Bluegrass Show

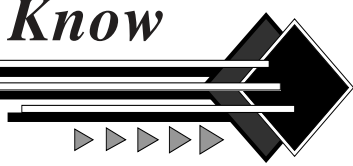
Lots of jammin! See you there!

6 p.m. Friday, June 25
at the Spiro Choctaw Community Center
West of Spiro, Oklahoma, on Hwy. 271

>>> **The Matthews Brothers** <<<
>>> **Welch Mountain Boys** <<<
>>> **Curtis Howze & Friends** <<<

Admission \$3.00 (Children under 12 Free w/Adult)
5 p.m.-7 p.m. Indian Tacos, Homemade Pies, etc.
Door Prizes! No alcohol or drugs!
Proceeds for Spiro Choctaw Language Class
For more information call 918-962-2756

People You Know



80th birthday

Family and friends honored Oneta Goss on her 80th birthday, March 27 at the Pauls Valley Housing Authority. She is the daughter of the late A.C. and Inez Wade, original enrollee. Oneta enjoys listening to live music, sometimes singing by herself, going to church, playing dominoes and visiting with family and friends. She received many cards, a special one from President and Mrs. Bush. Oneta would like to thank all those who attended this very special celebration.



Happy 10th birthday

Ryan Ashton Cripps turned ten years old on April 29. He is the stepson and son of Scott and April Goines and brother of Jace and Remington, all of Ashland, Oklahoma. Happy birthday, Ashton!



Look who's three

Congratulations to Kiercy Leighan Skieens of Durant, Oklahoma. Kiercy turned three years old on May 22. She is the daughter of Mandi Gross and Taylor Skieens. We love you very much - Momma, Dadda, Mamoo and Poppy.



Happy sixth birthday

Kelly Lynn Battiest turned six years old on June 1. Happy birthday from your Dad, Mom, and little brother.



Happy birthday wishes

The family of Amaziah Barnabus "A.B." Jefferson would like to wish him a very happy 79th birthday on June 22.



Happy birthday to Wanda (White) Russell on June 19 from your family.



Joshua Lewis celebrates his birthday on June 27. Happy birthday, Dad, from Owen and Natasha.

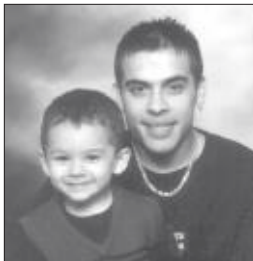


Leon Love turned 47 on June 10 and his son, Stoney Love, turns 27 on June 30. Have a good one, guys!!

The family and friends of Jay "Duck" Garrett would like to send him birthday wishes on June 2. Mr. Garrett will be 24 years old!!



Masheli Lewis will celebrate her birthday on June 16. This happy five-year-old is the daughter of Dickie and Lisa (Williams) Lewis of Purcell and the granddaughter of Elsie and the late Raymond E. Lewis of Durant.



Happy ?? birthday to Lavonne Choate on June 24 from Gregg and the boys. Ease up on the hairspray, though!



Christopher Ecklund turned 21 on June 7 and his son, Hayden, turned three on June 5.

Dallas Choctaws

Jo Ellen (Billy) and Carey Dean Scroggins would like everyone to meet their five rambunctious grandchildren, Cobi "Holitopah" Davis, 4; Joel "Onsi Homma" Davis, who turned 4 on June 5; Cade Alekton Davis, who turned 3 on June 6; and one-year-olds Winston Edward Davis and Cathryn Emma Davis. Joel and Winston are the sons of Jeffrey Jr. and Tisha Davis. Cobi, Cade and Cathryn are the children of Jonathan and Trynna Davis. All are of the Dallas metroplex area. Their paternal grandfather is Jeffrey L. Davis of Rattan, Oklahoma.



Winning team

Choctaw members of the Turner Lady Falcons pictured after winning the Class 2A Slow Pitch District Championship are, front, Shannon Holland, Casey Trammell, Audrey Ladner and Pam Holland; back, Dennis Holland, Coach Kelly Hartman and Samantha. The team was the first Turner girls team to play at state in school history and finished the season with a 32-6 win/loss record.

Celebrating 83rd

Happy birthday to Willard Mitchell, born March 15, 1921. Willard celebrated his 83rd birthday on Sunday, March 14, with his wife, Ruth Mitchell, at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Barbara (Mitchell) and Jerry Seago.



Willard is the son of Arizona McCurley (Curley) Mitchell, and grandson of Rhoda Tolbert McCurley (Curley), both original enrollees of the Choctaw Nation.

Happy first birthday

Alissa would like to wish her baby sister, Kayelin Jo Kindred, a very happy first birthday on May 11. Proud parents are Jody and Melissa Kindred of Daisy, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Rita Carter of Buffalo Valley, Oklahoma, Don Carter of Piedmont, Oklahoma, Ruth Kindred of Daisy and the late Arville Kindred. Great-grandparents are Bonnie Sparks of Buffalo Valley, Audrey Burleson of Daisy and Marie Lewis.



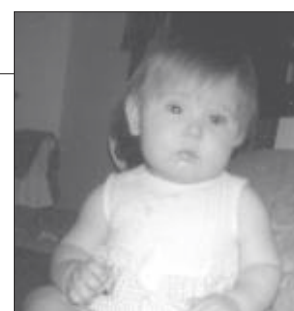
Marcos turns 17

Marcos Leopoldo Rasha turned 17 on May 13. He is the son of Carol Rasha of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Marcos goes to Jones Academy. His hobbies are playing basketball and football. May God bless you son! From, Mom; brother A.J. Lewis and sister Jennifer Rose, all of Ardmore, Oklahoma. Also, Mary, Pedro and Papie Lemus and all your family from Talihina, Honobia and Broken Bow.



First birthday

Becka Sue Noah will celebrate her very first birthday on June 28. Becka is the daughter of John David and Shlonda Noah and the granddaughter of David and Wanda Noah, all of Idabel, Oklahoma. Happy birthday!



Birthday girls

Sylvia Ann Gaza of Dallas, Texas, will be eleven years old on June 18. Desiree Alyssa Davis of Dallas turned six years old on June 1.



Their mom, Duana, and grandparents, Jerry and Marian Davis, live in Dallas. We all wish the girls a very happy birthday!

Look who's six

Happy birthday to Kendon Jade Shelton who celebrated his sixth birthday on June 2. Kendon is the son of Jarrod and Susan Shelton of Atoka, Oklahoma. He is the grandson of the late Bertha Battiest Hutchison, originally of Eagletown, Oklahoma, and Kim Shelton of Gillham, Arkansas. Wishing him a very happy birthday are his Mom, Dad, little sis Ambree, Granny, Aunt Santana, Aunt Melissa, and Uncle Jeff. We love you. Happy birthday, "Spiderman."



Celebrating 39th

Happy birthday to William Dwayne Taylor of Hugo, Oklahoma, who will turn 39 on June 20. He loves working and spending time with all of his children. Happy birthday with love from Becky!



Happy 15th, Cody

Happy birthday to Cody Peters who will be 15 on June 25. His parents are Becky Peters of Hugo and Cory Peters of Broken Bow. Cody loves spending time outdoors and is very active in church. He is going to Old Mexico in June on a mission trip. We are very proud of you - love, Mom.



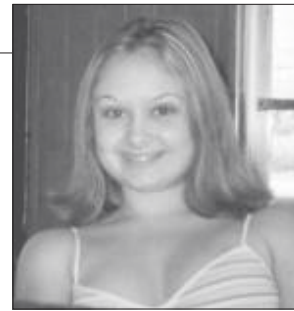
Tahasha turns 18

Here's wishing Tahasha Taylor a happy 18th birthday on July 3. Tahasha's parents are Mary Ward of Hugo and Dwayne Taylor of Hugo. You've grown to be a lovely young lady and we're very proud of you! Love, Dad and Becky.



Look who's 18

Happy 18th birthday on June 17 to Amber Hagger. She is the daughter of Becky Peters of Hugo, Oklahoma, and Walter Dodds of Valliant, Oklahoma. It's hard to believe you're already grown! I'm very proud of you - love, Mom.



Greenwood wins third

Justin T. Greenwood of Mesquite, Texas, recently had the opportunity to participate in the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Rodeo. It was a special event for Mr. Greenwood because his daughter, Mildred, son-in-law, Mike, and grandchildren, Josh and Heather Wright, were with him. With everyone's support he won third place out of the Dallas Bus Operators.



Everyone would also like to wish Heather a very happy birthday.

Tommie turns 91

Happy birthday to Tommie (Daniels) Davis of Stuart, Oklahoma, who celebrated her 91st birthday on June 8 with a cookout at her home. She was born at Milton, Oklahoma, to Green and Mae Daniels. Tommie went to school at Pryor near Stuart and married P.R. Davis on May 5, 1929, at Stuart. They have four children, Marion (Capehart) Goode, Margaret Ray, Roger Davis and Leonda Shields, all of Stuart. She worked at Elsings Manufacturing until her retirement.



Matthew turns 13

Matthew Jackson turned 13 years old on June 11. He is an eighth grade student at Tecumseh Jr. High School. Matthew enjoys football and wrestling and is in the honor band. He is the son of Donna and Eric Jackson.



Happy birthday wishes

Happy third birthday wishes go to Erin Willis of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Proud parents are Paul and Lisa Willis of Tulsa. Grandparents are the late Richard Thunderbull Jr. of Clinton, Oklahoma, Mary L. Billy of El Reno, Oklahoma, and Ramsey and Ella Willis of Tulsa.



Cheyenne celebrates first

Happy birthday to Cheyenne who turned one on May 6. Her parents are Kelly and Thomas McCoy of Coalgate, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Leon and Sue McCoy and Tina Betsey. Great-grandparents are Adam Betsey of Atoka, Oklahoma, and George and Violet McCoy of Coalgate. Cheyenne's parents gave her a Baby Pooh and friends birthday party on May 3. They would like to thank everyone who came and sent gifts.



Celebration planned for Georgia McKinney

Georgia McKinney will celebrate her 97th birthday on June 27. She was born in Cold Spring, Oklahoma, to Joseph Sampson and Aves McAlester. Georgia is a member of the Presbyterian Church. She lives in Idabel, Oklahoma, with her oldest daughter, Eriss McKinney. Georgia has lived in McCurtain County all of her life.

Georgia's parents were original enrollees. Her great-grandparents were on the Trail of Tears and later relocated to the McCurtain County area. She had one sister and one brother. Her brother, Jacob Sampson, is deceased. His family lives in and around Wright City, Oklahoma. Her sister, Agnes Kellett, passed away in March of this year. She had a half-sister, Agnes Oklahombi, and one half-brother, Billy Frazier, both who are deceased.

Georgia's children are Eriss McKinney, Raymond Brandy, Dery McKinney, Diana Harris and Hannah Blackowl. She has 19 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren.

The family will be celebrating her birthday on June 26 in Idabel, Oklahoma. There are many relatives that Georgia and her family are not familiar with and would like to get to know. If you would like to contact Georgia or get more information on her birthday dinner, contact Hannah Blackowl at 580-208-2817.

Cousins celebrate second birthdays

Angel Tonihka celebrated her second birthday on May 7. She is the daughter of Dwayne and Michelle Tonihka of Battiest, Oklahoma. Angel's grandparents are Elizabeth Tonihka of Bethel, Oklahoma, the late Bill Tonihka, and Edgel and Jane Samuels of Broken Bow, Oklahoma.



Kayden Bond celebrated her second birthday on May 11. She is the daughter of Davin and Monica Bond of Wright City, Oklahoma. Kayden's grandparents are Betsy Bond of Bethel, the late Leonard Bond, and Gerald and Mary Steve of Midwest City, Oklahoma, and the late Martel Steve.

Kayden would like to send birthday greetings to her cousins, Michelle Camron who turned two in April, Keylen Bond who turned two in March and to Angel who turned two on May 7.

Most Beautiful Baby

Derrick and Tyreese McIntosh would like to send out congratulations to their eight-month-old daughter, Dyani Akiha McIntosh, granddaughter of the late Herbert "Heavy Duty" McIntosh and Mary McIntosh of McAlester, Oklahoma. Dyani was crowned the Most Beautiful Baby in the Most Beautiful Baby Contest held in Richmond, Virginia, from April 23-25. She will compete in the National Competition in Illinois for a chance to win the National Title of Most Beautiful Baby 2004 and a \$25,000 savings bond.



Dyani is truly a star. Out of 16 categories in the state competition, she placed 13 times. She was also state overall winner; first in costume, western wear, and father/daughter personality plus; first runner up in product photo, product on stage, swimwear, prettiest smile, prettiest eyes and personality plus; second runner up in sportswear; third runner up for angel face and snapshot.

Michael's first Easter egg hunt

Three-year-old Michael Jordan Farrell of Atoka, Oklahoma, participated in his first Easter egg hunt this year. The event was held in the 45th Division Park in Atoka. Michael is pictured with Great-grandpa Curtis Harjo and the Easter Bunny.



Healthy Lifestyles Poster Contest



Ms. Fry and Brittany Harlin, 1st place, 10th-12th grade, Hugo High School.

The Choctaw Nation recently initiated a poster contest to educate our Native American youth on the importance of proper nutrition and physical activity. This campaign targeted all school-age children within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation. The posters were to address and encourage individuals on ways to have a "healthy lifestyle." A total of 230 students participated and each received a Healthy Lifestyles T-shirt. Schools with winning posters received a parachute which is utilized in physical education classes. The 1st Place posters will be displayed at various Choctaw Nation facilities. The following placed in their age group and were awarded prizes:

Kindergarten-3rd Grade

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st: Danetta Wilkerson | Crowder Schools |
| 2nd: Chay John | Durant Washington Irving |
| 3rd: Destiny Reeves | Wilburton Grace Russel |

4th-6th Grade

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1st: Aaron Toledo | Jones Academy |
| 2nd: Eli Mayer | Hartshorne Schools |
| 3rd: Alexandria Picone | Jones Academy |

7th-9th Grade

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1st: Jeffery Jones | Hugo Junior High |
| 2nd: Chelsea Wells | Hugo Junior High |
| 3rd: Katherine Ashby | Panola Schools |

10th-12th Grade

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1st: Brittany Harlin | Hugo High School |
| 2nd: Sean McGuire | Stigler High School |
| 3rd: Santanna Nikki Harley | Jones Academy |

Pictures of the participating students will appear in the BISHINIK throughout the summer.

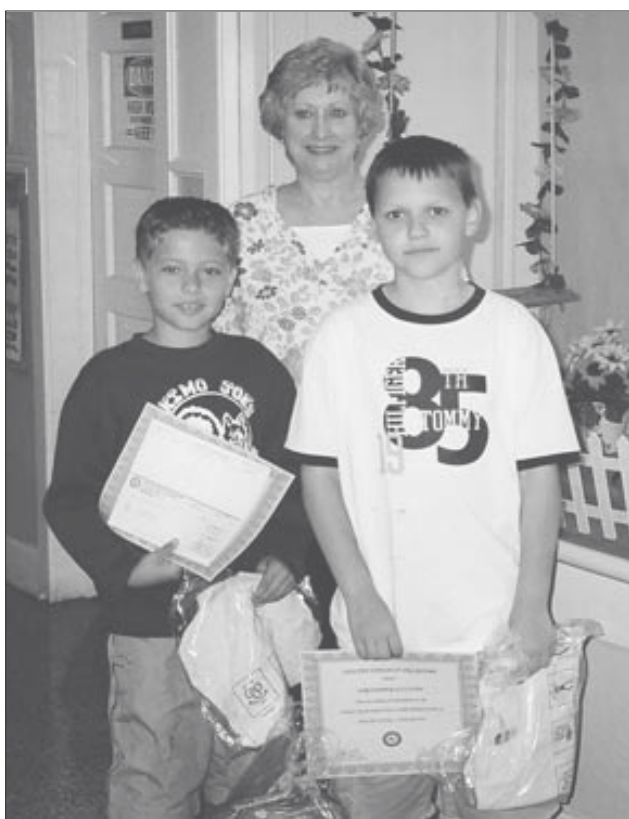
The Choctaw Nation will continue to inform individuals on the significance of "Healthy Living = Longer Life."



Hugo Junior High – Anna Hamilton, Curtis Hamilton, Chelsea Wells, 2nd place, 7th-9th grade; Jeffery Jones, 1st place, 7th-9th grade, and Mr. Scott.



Wilburton – Destiny Reeves, 3rd place, K-3rd grade; Selene Roberts, Shelbi Roberts, Jimmy Roberts, Landon Blackledge, Hillary Brooke Wilkett, Chance Reeves, Tara Thomason, Kara Thomason, Natalie Wilkett and Joshua Champion.



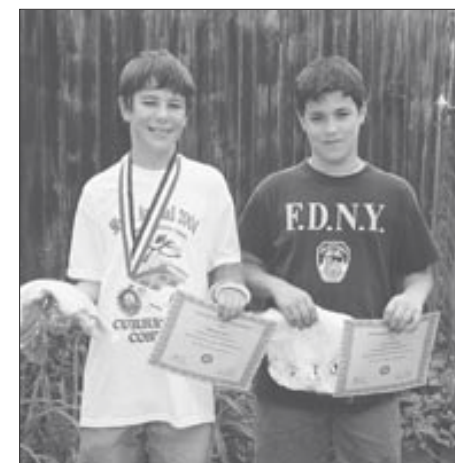
Chay John, 2nd place, K-3rd grade, and Christopher Sullivan, Durant Washington Irving.



Katherine Ashby, 3rd place, 7th-9th grade, and Ivette White of Panola Schools.



Crowder Schools – DaNetta Wilkerson, 1st place, K-3rd; Cherish Wilkerson, Gage Dillon, LeAnn Allen, Bryce Deatherage, Lisa Ellis, Jaydon Norton, Clayton Hill, J.T. Funberg, Andi Smith, Skylar Wood, Cory Grogan, Skylor Griffiths, Anna Rolland, Olivia Rolland, Dakota Garrett, Bethany Kendall, Dana Wilcox, Christopher Kendall and Gaylon Mounce.



Preston Wells and Jesse Patton, Hugo Intermediate.



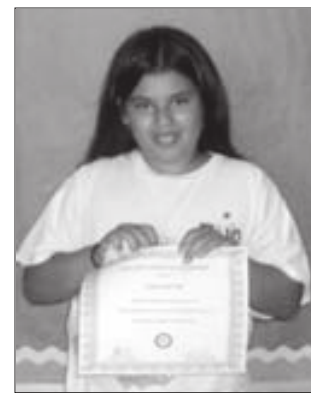
Amanda Perez and Shayla Brewer, Durant.



Eli Mayer, Hartshorne, 2nd place, 4th-6th grade.



Sean McGuire, Stigler, 2nd place, 10th-12th grade.



Tara McGuire, Stigler.



Jennifer McGuire and Kristie McGuire, Stigler.



Braden Kerns, Haywood.



Kayleigh Powell and Gabriel Louis, Durant Northwest Heights.



Caddo Schools – Ericka Behrens, Maggie Behrens, Roger Behrens, Erin Culley and Alyssa Hamilton.



Tannehill Schools – Carissa Middleton, Sartartia McNeil, Rachel Walley, Susan Inman, Ashton Weeks, Joshua Middleton, Kyle Jernigen, Dylan Hance, Christi Simmons, Hannah Arpoika, Megan Jernigan and Hillary Jernigen.

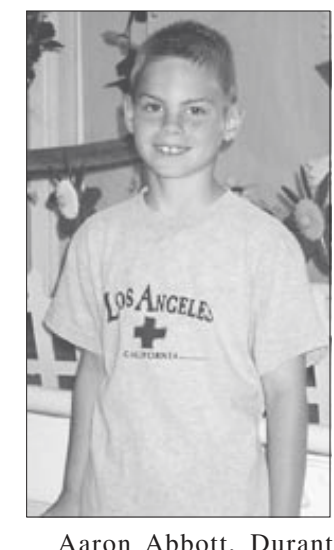


Leflore Schools – Jason Bugos, Emilie Cox, Michael Bugos and Kathryn Cox.

More photos of poster contestants will be included in upcoming issues of the BISHINIK



Crystal Perez, Durant.



Aaron Abbott, Durant Washington Irving.

Miss Oklahoma Kelley Scott visits Jones Academy



Front row, Richard Pedro, Nathaniel Kauley, Marvin Shewmake, Dion Roy; middle, Miss Scott, Brandon Pool and Micah Tiger, and back, Kris Parish.

Kelley Scott, Miss Oklahoma 2003, visited Jones Academy on April 15. At an all-school assembly, she shared her observations on making realistic choices and good decisions in dealing with life. Miss Scott received an enthusiastic response from the students who enjoyed her singing and the participation of several students in her program. A senior at Oklahoma City University, Miss Oklahoma 2003 promotes healthy lifestyle choices through her involvement in educational and health organizations. Miss Scott will pass on her crown this month.



Miss Scott, Ashley Bosserman, Micah Tiger, Dion Roy and Rochelle Clairmont.

Pine is conference javelin champion

Scott Pine represented the University of Redlands in the Javelin Throw at the 2004 Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships. He won the conference javelin championship with a throw of 207 feet and 10 inches, competing against 17 other athletes from seven of the eight conference schools. His throw provisionally qualified him for the NCAA Division 3 National Championships held in May at Milliken University in Decatur, Illinois. Scott missed the automatic qualifying mark by two inches (208 feet). His throw is a personal best and is second all time for SCIAC conference championships since the new javelin design was implemented in 1986. Pine's mark currently places him second in the nation at the NCAA Division 3 level and will likely allow him the opportunity to participate in nationals. The amazing aspect of his achievement is that he had never thrown the javelin until last track season as an academic sophomore.

In addition to throwing the javelin, Scott is a wide receiver on the University of Redlands Football Team, which has won the SCIAC conference championship the past two seasons and made back to back appearances in the NCAA Division 3 National Championship playoffs the past two seasons.

Honor student

Tiffany Reynolds has been selected for induction into the 2003-04 National Honor Roll for her outstanding academic achievement. The roll will include Tiffany's name and biography as one of America's leading high school students. Being published is an honor Tiffany will share with a very small percentage of all U.S. high school students.

Tiffany is a senior at Boswell High School and will be attending Carl Albert Jr. College in Poteau, Oklahoma, majoring in Physical Science. She enjoys playing basketball and spending time with her friends. She is the daughter of Cinderella Walker of Boswell, Oklahoma, and she has two brothers, John and Dakota, and two sisters, Susan and Cassandra. She is the granddaughter of the late Holly Robinson and Choctaw Roy.

2004 graduate

Tyler Lynn White has graduated from Lake Travis High School in Austin, Texas. She is the daughter of Lynn and Lisa White. Her grandparents are Ronald and Patricia (Tyler) Gerstman of Baytown, Texas, and Stewart and Maxine White of Jackson, Mississippi. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Carl Pushmataha and Evelyn Tyler.

Tyler will be attending the University of Mississippi in the fall.

McAlester grad

Kelly Ann McWilliams graduated McAlester High School May 21, 2004. She plans to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. Proud parents are Mike and Becky McWilliams of McAlester. Grandparents are Bud and Ruby McCoy of Canadian, Oklahoma, and Jim Robinson of Concho, Arizona. Kelly is a descendant of the late Evelina Pusley-Hayes, an original enrollee.

Molly graduates, celebrates birthday

Molly Culver Bell graduated eighth grade and also turned 14 years old in June. She plans to start Berkeley High School in the fall, studies acting with ACT's Young Conservatory in San Francisco, and just finished a great varsity volleyball season! She is a proud descendant of original enrollee Amanda Lomer. Congratulations Molly! We love you!

Hoklotubbe is Santiago High School graduate

Congratulations to Matthew Hoklotubbe. He graduated June 10 from Santiago High School, Corona, California. Matt finished with a 4.0 GPA and worked very hard in all areas. Along with great study habits, Matt led the Santiago Golf Team to an undefeated season and was in the top 12 in league finals. Matthew has decided to attend University of California, Santa Barbara, and work on a Film Studies Major. Good luck.

BISHINIK deadline

Articles to be submitted for publication in the BISHINIK need to be received by the 10th of the month for the following month's edition.



Native American dancers Darren Roberson, Presley Byington, Joe Noah and Eugene Taylor are pictured with Hugo Elementary students Lauren Barger, Taylor Pence and Peyton Self.

Native American Craft Day at Hugo Elementary School

Several Native Americans recently shared their talents with the children at Hugo Elementary School in Hugo, Oklahoma. The school celebrated a Native American Craft Day and the children were given the opportunity to learn skills that have been passed down from generation to generation.

Linda Lou, a Texas Cherokee, taught the children the art of basket weaving and Lucille Olive shared the art of making beautiful beadwork. Dora Wickson, a Choctaw, spent the entire day preparing fry bread and the students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed eating it.

Olin Williams from the Choctaw Nation of

Oklahoma was the official storyteller. Mr. Williams told stories, explained fables and showed Indian artifacts. Dennis Todd spent the day making arrowheads and teaching their history. Presley Byington, Darren Roberson, Joe Noah and Eugene Taylor performed the dances of the eagle and the snake. The children were included in a lively circle dance.

"It was a wonderful day of learning from a culture rich in tradition!" commented Denise Rice, Hugo Elementary Counselor and the event programmer. "Many thanks go to the Hugo Johnson O'Malley committee for sponsoring the event."

Devon Mihesuah is presented Crystal Eagle Award

Devon Mihesuah, professor of applied indigenous studies at Northern Arizona University and granddaughter of an original enrollee, was presented the Crystal Eagle Award by the students of the Indigenous Nations Studies program at the University of Kansas on May 20. The Crystal Eagle Award is given to an American Indian who has shown excellent leadership and has contributed to the Indigenous community at large. She also just won the Oklahoma Writer's Federation Trophy Award for the Best Non-Fiction Book of 2003 for American Indigenous Women, "Decolonization, Empowerment, Activism," and her book, Lost and Found, won the Best Young Adult Novel. She is editor of the American Indian Quarterly and author of numerous books including "First to Fight: The Story of Henry Mihesuah," and the novels, "The Lightning Strikes" and "The Roads of My Relations."

Shardae graduates, turns 18 in June

Shardae Lynn Feest graduated from Wm. Horlick High School in Racine, Wisconsin, on June 6 and will celebrate her 18th birthday on June 16. She has been a member of the Key Club, Model UN Club, high school bowling club and involved in the high school madrigal. She plays violin and piano and has lettered in music, receiving various awards and honors.

Shardae was involved in the Kiwanis music program, was listed in Who's Who Among High School Students and on the honor roll and high honor roll. She is involved in the library teen advisory board, volunteers at the Racine archives and museum, works as a library teachers aide and is involved in her church youth group and the Saturday morning bowling league.

Shardae will be attending UW Parkside College this fall, majoring in Secondary Education. She also enjoys writing poems and mythological stories. Proud parents of Shardae are Wilma Claudine (Loveless) Allison-Feest and Albert Feest of Racine. Grandparents are Wilma LaTrell (Laymon) Boudreau of Durant, Oklahoma, R.C. Loveless of Texas, the late Muilbert and Adalaide (Hegeman) Feest; the great-granddaughter of Thelma (Beames) and Charlie Laymon; great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Josiah and Minnie Elbe (Sauls) Beames, and great-great-great-granddaughter of James and Amy (Folsom) Beames.

Shardae's parents and grandparents would like to congratulate her on a job well done and wish her a very happy 18th birthday.

Maureen Lesky heading to Japan

Maureen (McIntyre) Lesky has been selected as a participant in the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program to Japan for November 2004. The FMF Teacher Program is intended to provide professional development opportunities to raise awareness of and interest in Japan and to apply this cross-cultural experience back in schools and local communities.

Ms. Lesky will utilize the FMF experience to reinforce curriculum that supports the study of other civilizations, such as Japan, throughout the world and their contributions to the diversity represented in United States history and culture. Her follow-up plan focuses on developing and team-teaching Japanese thematic curriculum units that incorporate technology and New Mexico State Standards.

Maureen is currently a reading teacher and technology coordinator at San Felipe Pueblo Elementary (BIA) School in San Felipe Pueblo, New Mexico. She is also a doctoral student at New Mexico State University in the Curriculum and Development, Emphasis in Learning Technologies Program.

She is the daughter of Choctaw member Charles "Beaver" McIntyre and Gwendolyn (Querdbitty) McIntyre of Bloomfield, New Mexico, and the granddaughter of the late original enrollee, Preston McIntyre, and Aurelia Kaneubbe.

Bryan County Cinderella Woman

Patricia Littrell of Durant will be representing Bryan County at the Oklahoma State Cinderella Pageant in Altus, Oklahoma, in June. Patricia will be competing for the Oklahoma State Cinderella Woman title this month, and from there, will go on to represent Oklahoma at the International Cinderella pageant in Las Vegas, Nevada, in July where the International Cinderella Woman winner is awarded a cash scholarship of \$5,000.

Patricia will be competing in interview, casual wear, party wear, talent and photogenic. She will be singing for her talent. She will spend the week down in Altus competing and attending Cinderella events. She has been involved in many of the local pageants and pageant events across the state.

Carrie Bush wins music talent search

The 23rd Annual Colgate Country Showdown music talent search was held April 4 in Idabel, Oklahoma. Carrie Bush competed with 21 other contestants and was chosen the winner of the contest. The Colgate Country Showdown is designed to find the most promising music talent in America and give these promising performers a chance to launch their professional music career.

The search begins each spring with over 400 local talent contests which are sponsored by country music radio stations throughout the United States. The winners advance on to the state, regional and finally national competitions.

Carrie is the daughter of Marie (Underwood) Bush of Cornelia, Georgia, and Mark Bush of Garvin, Oklahoma, and the granddaughter of Vernon and Carolyn Underwood of Wilburton, Oklahoma. She is a student at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

Caddo Grad of 2004

Congratulations to Christopher Wade Paddock. He graduated May 20, 2004, from Caddo High School, Caddo, Oklahoma. Christopher was also crowned King at the Senior Prom.

Christopher is the son of Kevin and Tina Paddock of Ardmore, Oklahoma, and the grandson of Richard and Emily George of Caddo.

Outstanding student at Oral Roberts

Ricky D. Johnson graduated May 1 from Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Oklahoma. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Ricky was also selected "The Most Outstanding Student for Academic Achievement" in his college.

Ricky and his wife, Angela, were both 2001 graduates of Rhema Bible College. They currently make their home in Owasso, Oklahoma, where they are employed by American Airlines.

Ricky, a 1980 graduate of Hugo High School, is the son of William R. and Maudine Johnson. He is the grandson of Frank and Ella Oakes (deceased).

Conference MVP

Tushka High School Senior Brandon King was named Atoka-Johnston County Conference MVP this year, an award he also won in the 2002-03 basketball season. He is also All Conference for 2002, 2003 and 2004. Brandon played in the Kiamichi All Star game May 29 at Eastern Oklahoma State College and will go on to play in the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association All Star Game June 4-5 and the Indian All Star Game June 17-19. He has also been named to the McDonald's Oklahoma Coaches Association All State team. That game is scheduled for July 29.

Brandon is the son of Carl King and Teresa Arnold. He has two sisters, Tracie Scott and April King. He has an uncle, Lee Watkins, and an aunt, Barbara Freeman, both of Durant, Oklahoma. Brandon is a member of the car club, Team Hyper Drive, and enjoys going to car shows. He plans to attend college in the fall.

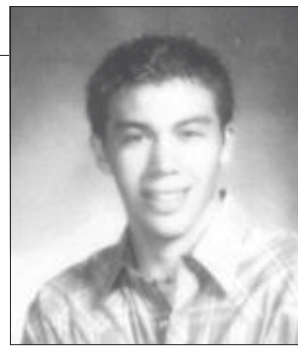
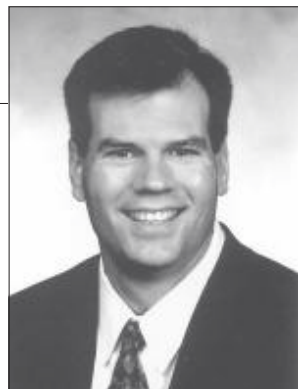
James Folsom graduates

James Ryan Folsom graduated May 21 from Cascia Hall Preparatory High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James O. Folsom Jr., Tulsa, and the grandson of James and Stella Folsom, Tulsa, formerly of Ardmore and Atoka, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harter, Tupelo. He is the great-grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Folsom Sr., Atoka, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Audie Phelps, Lane.

Kelly's a winner!

Kelly Rose Wallis, 8, received first place and two second-place medals in a Kung-Fu Tournament April 10. She placed first in the "horse-stance" competition and second in sparring and "salute kata." Also, Kelly tested for and received her yellow sash on April 23. She has been in kung-fu for 18 months.

Kelly's coach is A.A. Velazquez of the Black Tiger Academy in Banning, California. Her parents are Larry and Cassandra Wallis of Cabazon, California. She is the granddaughter of the late Jim Wallis and the late Lilly Mae (Moore) Wallis, Jack and Sue Long and Terry and Tammy Price, all of New Albany, Indiana. Great-grandma Hazel Qualkinbush is also of New Albany. Kelly would like to say "Hi!" to her family everywhere.



JONES ACADEMY CLASS OF 2004



Catlin Ahtone of Newalla is the son of Marilyn Lovins. He was chosen Faculty Student of the Year at Hartshorne High School, was an honor band student and officer during 2002-04 and was also selected Band Student of the Year. He was on the honor roll this year and received Students Aiding Students Academic Scholarship. He is enrolled at Eastern Oklahoma State College and plans to major in Computer Science.



Kesley Barr of Reno, Nevada, is the son of Valerie Barr. Kesley received certificates in Music Theory, Economics, Computer I and Art. He is registered to attend classes at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno. He plans on transferring to the Institute of American Indian Arts in Sante Fe, New Mexico, and becoming an artist.



Rose Begay of Lukachukai, Arizona, is the daughter of Elsie Begay. Rose was the Jones Academy Student Council President 2003-04. She was on the honor roll the last two years and received the Geometry Academic Award 2003-04. Rose was also active in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. She is registered to attend classes at Dine College in Tsaile, Arizona.



Jamilia Billie of Foley, Alabama, is the daughter of Joseph Billie and Sharon Knight. Jamilia was on the honor roll this year. She was an active member of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. She is scheduled to attend classes in the fall at Eastern Oklahoma State College. Jamilia has expressed interest in a military career just like her mom and dad.



Raina Cloud of Gardnerville, Nevada, is the daughter of Daniel Cloud and the late Donna Koos. She has been on the honor roll since the tenth grade. After graduation, Raina will enter the Talking Leaves Job Corps in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Her course of study will be office management.



Jonathan Colungo of Ada, Oklahoma, is the son of Anita Meely and Johnny Colungo. Throughout high school, Jonathan played varsity football and basketball. He competed with great intensity in both sports. Jonathan has applied at the Pontotoc Technology Center and will start auto mechanics instruction in the fall.



Randy Gomez of Anadarko, Oklahoma, is the son of Pam Whiteshield. Randy participated in varsity football and basketball. He made the All District football team as a punter. Randy plans to enter Eastern Oklahoma State College in the fall. He is interested in studying psychology.



Crystal Gurule of Penasco, New Mexico, is the daughter of Melvin and Janice Gurule. She was awarded certificates in Career Orientation and Success in Horticulture. Crystal plans to work after finishing high school. She also wants to go to school and pursue a career in cosmetology.



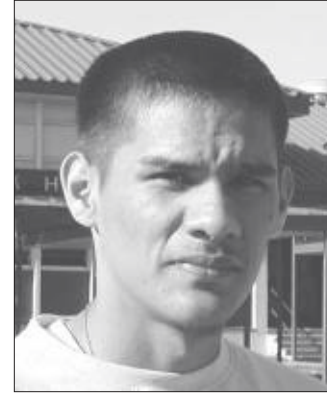
Tyler James of Broken Bow is the son of Abbie and Betsy James. He played three years on the varsity basketball team for Hartshorne High School. Tyler was presented with the Young Poets Award this year, received certificates in Music Theory and Career Orientation, and was a member of FCCLA. He plans to attend EOSC in the fall.



Savannah Lucio of Box Elder, South Dakota, is the daughter of Paula Mendez and Michael Lucio. Savannah was a member of FCCLA and was the Jones Academy Indian Club photographer. She plans to study for a career in business management.



Vanessa Murphy of Neosho, Missouri, is the daughter of Lisa Murphy and the late Ricky Murphy. She was Student Council Vice President at Jones Academy, on the JA yearbook staff, FCCLA Social Director, received certifications as Lead Teacher and Assistant Teacher and is enrolled at EOSC to study early childhood development and child psychology.



Derrick Noriega of Wewoka is the son of Manuel and Ramona Noriega. Derrick was a member of FCCLA and participated in varsity basketball. He has registered to attend classes at Seminole State College this fall. He is also an active member of the Oklahoma National Guard and has expressed an interest in a military career.



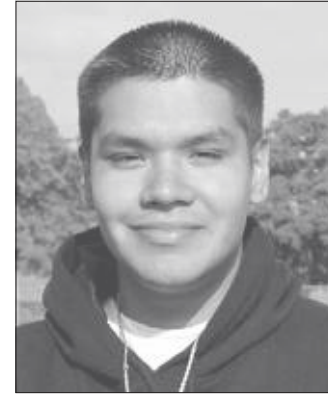
Jessica Phelps of Stratford, Oklahoma, is the daughter of Laura Mannon and Chris Klein. Jessica was a member of the Oklahoma Honor Society and Hartshorne High School Gifted and Talented. She was a student council representative, a cheerleader, and member of Hartshorne Miners softball team. She received the J.N. and Helen Baker Scholarship, the American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship and the Parsons Hartshorne High School Scholarship for academic excellence. Jessica will attend EOSC in the fall on a cheerleading scholarship and is seeking a career as a pharmacist.



James Roubidoux of Shawnee is the son of Hilda Martinez and James Roubidoux. James received a certificate for serving on the Hartshorne High School yearbook staff. He also placed second in a statewide art contest. James plans to study computer drafting at the Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee.



Raena Salkey of the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona is the daughter of Weldon and Darlene Salkey. She was JA Indian Club president and the FCCLA reporter. She is enrolled at EOSC, majoring in Political Science. She plans to transfer to the University of Arizona after completing her studies in Oklahoma.



Jeremy Taylor of Antlers is the son of Nancy Taylor and the late Kurt Taylor. Jeremy is an active member of the Oklahoma National Guard and will begin his Advance Individual Training in June. He plans to enter Seminole State College in the spring of 2005.



Kristina Williams of Atoka is the daughter of Leroy Mitchell and Roberta Williams. Kristina was 4th hour president of the FCCLA. She was also on the honor roll and a member of the Jones Academy Indian Club. She will be attending EOSC in the fall. Kristina has expressed an interest in fashion designing.



The Choctaw Nation Head Start in Durant held a graduation ceremony Tuesday, May 4. This year's graduates are Tezla Johnson, Kayla Pruitt, Paul Shepard, Brayden Bentley, Alera Rivera, Ashleigh Nagy, Brittany Ned, Seth Messer, Destiny Remshardt, Ashlyn Douglas and Madilyn Scott.



The Choctaw Nation Head Start in Stigler held a graduation ceremony Saturday, May 8. This year's graduates are Lexi Ball, Christian Brassfield, Sierra Grant, Justin Howze, Matthew Jenkins, Mairi Lackey, Dalton Main, Alisha McCarroll, Anthony Norman (not present), Caleb Smith, Taylor Smith, Brady Wilson, Unity McAlvain and Jaylee Craig.



Portrait presented to Chief Pyle

Southeastern Oklahoma State University Academic Adviser Shari Williams and SOSU Native American Councilmembers Brittany Shomo and Nicole Billy present a portrait to Chief Gregory E. Pyle in appreciation of all he and the Choctaw Nation have done in support of education. The portrait of Chief Pyle was done by Dawn Morningstar.

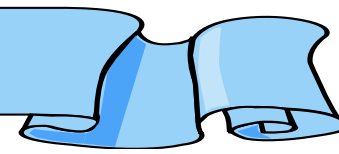
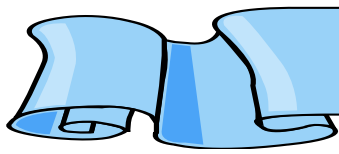
Student's paper wins distinct honor

Melissa Dunbar Bradshaw of Kerrville, Texas, recently attended the National Undergraduate Literary Conference in Ogden, Utah, where she presented her paper titled, "The Sacrificial Lamb in Harry Potter: A Glance Through the Lens of Feminist Theory." The paper, written in Fall 2003 while in attendance at Schreiner University, was one of four papers accepted for publication in the Weber State University's literary journal, Metaphor. Melissa traveled to Utah with five other Schreiner students and English Professor Dr. Lydia Kualapai for the three-day conference. In conjunction with her critical paper, she also had a poem accepted for presentation at the conference. The National Undergraduate Literary Conference is the only conference in the nation for undergraduate students. Melissa also won top honors at the 2003 Pop Culture Writing Symposium, first place in the 2003 "Take Back the Night" Writing Competition, and has been accepted into Who's Who Among American University Students, as well as Sigma Tau Delta's International English Honor Society. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. in English from Schreiner University in May. She is employed as a seventh grade Language Arts Writing teacher at Comfort Middle School and will begin graduate school this fall at Schreiner. She contributes her success to the quality education she received at Schreiner while on a Choctaw Scholarship and the inspiration from her husband, Raymond; three children, Corey, Kain and Sarah, and "Mama Elsie." She is eternally grateful to the Choctaw Nation for their scholarship and support.



Youth participate in Language Fair

Congratulations to this group of young people from the OK Tribal Alliance. They placed third in the Second Annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, April 19 at the Sam Noble Center in Norman.



Kevin Don "Babe" Aaron

Kevin Don "Babe" Aaron, 18, passed away April 17, 2004, in Ardmore, Oklahoma. He was born April 10, 1986, in Ada, Oklahoma, to Daryll and Annette Joe Aaron.

Kevin was an exceptional athlete, friend, brother and son. His passions were football and powerlifting and that passion carried him to many achievements and honors. Although his name didn't appear in the stat sheets, he played the role he was asked, and attacked everything he did in the same manner by outworking everyone else. He was named to the 2003 3A-2 All District team. In his junior year he received the Mister Hustle award and in his senior year he received the "Fighting Heart" award and was a Senior Bowl selection.

In powerlifting, Kevin was named outstanding powerlifter at Dickson in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004. He was a state qualifier in powerlifting in 2002, 2003 and 2004. In 2003, he set an Oklahoma Football Coaches Association state record in the bench press with a lift of 300 pounds. In 2004, Kevin was overall area champ in powerlifting in the 168-pound division. He was overall state runner-up in the 168-pound division and was two-time state champion in the bench press.

Kevin made a positive impact on every person. Everybody who truly knew him knows that he was and always will be a champion in every sense of the word.

Survivors include his parents and a brother, Trevor Aaron, all of the home; a sister, Aja Baker and husband, Joe; two nieces, Baylie and Avery Baker, and maternal grandparents, Donald and Ruby Joe, all of Ardmore; paternal grandmother, Patsy Aaron of Okemah; many loving aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Kevin will be greatly missed by family and friends.



Angie Hazelwood

Angie Hazelwood, 87, of Idabel, Oklahoma, passed away April 6, 2004, at Idabel. She was born June 1, 1916, in Hugo, Oklahoma, the daughter of Joel J. Thompson Sr. and Ira (Williams) Thompson.

Angie was a homemaker and a member of the Central Baptist Church. She enjoyed gardening and had lived in the Idabel area for 25 years, moving from Talco, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and five sisters.

Survivors include her brother and sister-in-law, Joel and Lena Thompson of Waco, Texas; a niece, Sheila Lopez; special friends, Jane Whitten, Irene Houston, Karen Conaway and Marion Hamill, and a host of other relatives and church family.



Hansel Thompson Jr.

Hansel Thompson Jr., 51, passed away April 7, 2003, in Ada, Oklahoma. He was born January 20, 1952, in Talihina, Oklahoma, the son of Hansel Jenner Thompson and Patsy Ruth (Hunter) Thompson. He grew up in the Hugo area.

Mr. Thompson was a backhoe operator and a member of the Baptist faith.

He was preceded in death by his father; one sister, Rebecca Ann Thompson, and grandfathers, Buck Hunter and Joseph Ward Thompson.

Survivors include his partner and special friend of 12 years, Sug Hendrix; his mother, Patsy Ruth Thompson of Hugo; three daughters, Tammy Michelle Tyer and her husband, William Gordon Tyer, of Ardmore, Oklahoma, Jessica Nicole Thompson and Kala LeAnn Thompson, both of Drumright, Oklahoma; stepdaughter, Jeanne Davidson of Coalgate, Oklahoma; sister, Kay Brownfield and husband, Larry Brownfield, of Valliant, Oklahoma; brother, Richard Thompson and his wife, Shirley, of Durant; grandmother, Pauline Hunter of Hugo; three grandchildren, Rebecca Tyer, Shelton Tyer and Hunter Davidson, along with many other relatives and friends.

Joseph "Joey" Brownfield

Joseph "Joey" Brownfield, 24, of Valliant, Oklahoma, passed away January 6, 2004, at Valliant. He was born March 23, 1979, at Talihina, Oklahoma, the son of Larry Brownfield and Kay (Thompson) Brownfield. He lived all his life in Valliant.

Survivors include his parents; two brothers, Jason Brownfield of Hugo, Oklahoma, and Nathan Brownfield of Valliant; his great-grandmother, Pauline Hunter of Hugo, and grandmother, Pat Thompson of Hugo.



Ralph Walter Williams

Ralph Walter Williams, 63, passed away March 29, 2004, in Dallas, Texas. He was born April 17, 1940, in Pawnee, Oklahoma, to Ralph and Helen (Ledbetter) Williams.

Ralph lived most of his life in Dallas. He graduated from McCurtain, Oklahoma, High School and studied history at Oklahoma State University. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the aircraft carrier USS Kersage and the nuclear submarine USS Alexander Hamilton.

Survivors include his loving daughter, Holly Williams; sister, Stephanie Sick and husband, Bill, of Winnetka, Illinois; brother, Pitch Williams and wife, Gina, of Winnetka; nephew, David Sick and wife, Stacey Carr, of San Francisco, California; niece, Jill Sick of Winnetka, and former wife and friend, Julie Spielman and husband, Richard, of Dallas.

Ludie "Lou" Hunter

Ludie "Lou" Hunter, 81, of Helendale passed away November 26, 2003, at the home of her son, Jay, where she had lived for the past seven years. She was born January 6, 1922, in Jones County, Texas, along with her 12 brothers and sisters, and had been a resident of Pomona, Ontario, and Alta Loma, before moving to Helendale. She was a cook for 40 years at Flo's Cafe, Chino.

Survivors include daughters and sons-in-law, Lee and Larry Davidson of Post Falls, Idaho, Emma and Don Beekman of Gavilon Hills, Linda and Ken Steslicki of Helendale, and Rita Koch of Indiana; sons, Jay Hunter of Helendale and Calvin Hunter of Ridgecrest; sisters, Helen De Clereq of Shelly, Michigan, and Ellen Forrester, Joan Koases and Shirley Hardester, all of Alta Loma; brothers, Raymond Sage of Upland and Elmer Sage of Alta Loma; grandchildren, Susie and Sean Miller, Michele and Rob Blischke, Donna and Greg Otta, Brook and Gregory Steslicki, Sheila Rhodes, Roger Fullenwider, Kelly and Jason Hunter, John Beckman, Ron Beckman, Angie Hunter, Josh Hunter and Tosha Hunter; great-grandchildren, Ashley Miller, Dylan and Brennan Otta, Felicia, Chad and Bobbie Rhodes, Jacob, Jason and Jonathan Hunter, and Morgan and Kylie Steslicki.

Bill Pappan

Bill Pappan, 80, of Oklahoma City passed away April 19, 2004, in Oklahoma City. He was born October 11, 1923, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to William and Grace (Maxfield) Pappan.

Bill graduated from Chilocco High School and lived in the Midwest City area for over 50 years. He served in the Air Force during World War II, was a purchasing supervisor at Tinker AFB and retired in 1980 after 35 years. He was a Presbyterian and liked golf.

His parents; wife, Loretta; son, Bill, and two sisters, Carolyn Walkabout and Jerry Crow, preceded him in death.

Survivors include a son, Jeff Pappan and wife, Victoria, of Kennewick, Washington; daughters, Sandy Reed and Grace Kostiuik and husband, Stefan, all of Oklahoma City; brother, Steven "Mac" Maxfield and wife, Carmen, of San Diego, California; two granddaughters, Jordan Dwight and Alena Pappan; nephew, Jerry Walkabout, and many other relatives and friends.

Clelland Billy

Clelland Billy, 72, passed away April 15, 2004. He was born on February 27, 1932, in Broken Bow, Oklahoma, to the Rev. Simon and Mary (Amos) Billy.

Clelland married Rose Willis on October 9, 1952, before entering the Air Force. They traveled and lived all over the country before they settled in Midwest City, Oklahoma.

He graduated from Broken Bow High School in 1952 and was the quarterback for the Broken Bow Savages, one of his many accomplishments that he was proud of. He returned to Broken Bow as often as he could to support his home team. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Air Force and served during the Korean and Vietnam era. He received numerous awards and medals, including the "Distinguished Flying Cross for Bravery" during his tour of Vietnam. Clelland retired from the Air Force after 24 years of active duty and from civil service at Tinker AFB after 18 years. After retirement, Clelland served for two years as Tribal Registrar for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma under the Gardner administration.

He never met a stranger and enjoyed talking and telling about his many adventures. He was a member of Mary Lee Clark UMC of Del City, Oklahoma. His ministry was gospel music and he was a well known Master of Ceremonies. He formed the Midwest City Trio and traveled many states. He proudly served his God, country and family with faithful service and devotion. One of his many "sermons" to his family was to "return home with honor, always do the right thing, remember your heritage, take care of your family and love your family."

Survivors include his wife, Rose Billy, of Midwest City; one son, Glenn Billy of Midwest City; one daughter and son-in-law, Janice and Marshall McCaulley; four grandsons, Michael Billy, Jason Brown, Samuel Brown and Clayton McCaulley; one granddaughter and her husband, Karen and Steve St. Hilaire of Altus AFB, Oklahoma; two brothers, Ed Billy of Broken Bow and Daniel Billy of Oklahoma City; one great-granddaughter, Maya Genesis Brown of Oklahoma City; special friend, Agnes Ward of McAlester, Oklahoma, and numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.



Forrest J. Siems

Forrest J. Siems, 78, passed away April 4, 2004. He was born November 30, 1925, in Shiner, Texas, to Herbert and Lilly (Pavlicek) Siems. He married Mary Beams on March 15, 1949.

Mr. Siems had been very involved in Candlelight Plaza Civic Club. He was a longtime member of All Saints Catholic Church in Houston and was retired from Southern Pacific Railroad. Since retiring, he had enjoyed traveling and attending reunions.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Floyd John Siems; grandparents, Vincent and Agnes Pavlicek and Gerhardt and Hedwig (Wick) Siems.

Survivors include his loving wife, Mary; two daughters, Shelly Narciso and her husband, John, and Syd Motal; three granddaughters, Nicole, Kassidy and Kendall.



Mary Sue Owen

Mary Sue Owen, 70, of Boswell, Oklahoma, passed away April 16, 2004, at Antlers Nursing Home, Antlers, Oklahoma. She was born March 25, 1934, in Boswell, Oklahoma, the daughter of Thomas Crowder and Lola Ida (Edge) Crowder and had lived most of her life in the Boswell area.

She was a retired cook and of the Pentecostal faith.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, William F. Owen on April 2, 1965, and a brother, Clark Crowder.

Survivors include one son, Richard Owen of Bokchito, Oklahoma; two daughters, Pam Beddo of Talihina, Oklahoma, and Melody Beddo of Denison, Texas; one sister, Gail West of Boswell; three brothers, Ed Crowder of Shawnee, Oklahoma, Julius "Dude" Crowder of Boswell and Tommy Crowder of Unger, Oklahoma; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mary "Starlie" Smith

Mary "Starlie" Smith, 94, passed away February 12, 2004, in Shafter, California. She was born January 10, 1910, in Kinta, Oklahoma, to William and Lorenda Fitzer.

She was a graduate of Shafter High School and married Ed Smith on February 23, 1927, in Stigler, Oklahoma. Starlie enjoyed her life and loved camping, fishing, reading, quilting and sewing. She was also an avid Avon bottle collector.

She was preceded in death by her sons, Michael and George.

Survivors include her son, Kenneth Smith and wife, Omega, of Shafter; daughter, Margie and husband, Alvin White, of Taft and JoAnn and husband, Dee Aller, of Whittier; sisters, Mary Jo Webb of Oklahoma and Naomi Brewer of Atascadero; nine grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Ricky Wilkins

Ricky Wilkins, 41, of Hugo, Oklahoma, passed away April 21, 2004, at Choctaw Memorial Hospital, Hugo, Oklahoma. He was born April 14, 1963, in Hugo, the son of Robert Wilkins and Patsy Mitchell. Ricky lived most of his life in Choctaw County. He was an auto mechanic. He married Nancy "Robin" Whitson on February 27, 1987, in Paris, Texas.

His father preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy "Robin" Wilkins; mother, Patsy Mitchell and stepdad, Rex Mitchell, of Durant, Oklahoma; son, Christopher Stanford of Amarillo, Texas; daughter, Amber Stanford of Hugo; two brothers, Roger Wilkins of Hawaii and Michael Wilkins of Washington; two sisters, Becky Houchen of Millerton, Oklahoma, and Melissa of Durant, and one grandson, Jesse Stanford of Hugo.

Charles Wayne Gipson

Charles Wayne Gipson, 59, passed away January 14, 2004, in the Veterans Hospital, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He was born October 17, 1944, in Bentley, Oklahoma.

He spent his childhood in Oklahoma and graduated from Kaining High School in Kaining, Oklahoma. Upon graduation, he entered the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Long Beach, California. He did a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Charlie married Rita Patterson on December 29, 1978, in Ravinia, South Dakota. He worked for Yankton Sioux Construction as a carpenter for many years. Charlie will always be remembered for his love of family and especially his grandchildren. He had a big heart and was always willing to pitch in and help anyone in need. He also loved the sound of laughter.

His mother, three brothers and one sister preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Rita Gipson of Lake Andes, South Dakota; three daughters, LaHoma Gipson and Tracy Dion of Lake Andes and Yvonne Dion of Rapid City, South Dakota; and one son, Douglas Dion of Fort Thompson, South Dakota.



Dianna Lynn Foster

Dianna Lynn Foster, 38, of McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away April 16, 2004, in McAlester. She was born July 8, 1965, in McAlester.

Dianna was a homemaker and had lived in McAlester her entire life. She was a member of the Beulah Mission Church, was an avid cat lover and enjoyed playing video games.

Her mother, Flora Wilkinson, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her father, Ben Foster of McAlester; brothers, Arthur Wilkinson and wife, Sandra, of McAlester, Walter Wilkinson II and wife, Barbara, of Round Lake, Illinois, Chris Wilkinson and Machele Vance of McAlester, and Pat Wilkinson and wife, Barbara, of Farmington, New Mexico; sisters, Wionna Wilkinson and Don Rowland of Mabelvale, Arkansas, and Terry Ketcherside of Krebs, Oklahoma; uncle, Melvin Alberson of McAlester; cousins, Roxanne Prock and Curtis Prock, both of McAlester; numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and other family members.

Agnes Kellett

Agnes Kellett, 81, of Antlers, Oklahoma, passed away March 5, 2004. She was born August 26, 1922, in Choctaw County, Oklahoma, to the late Joseph Sampson and Aves (McAlester) Sampson.

Agnes was a devoted housewife, mother and grandmother who enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Jacob Sampson; son, Timothy Wayne Jeffus; great-grandson, Steven Shane Rogers, and great-granddaughter, Nicole Lea Cody.

Survivors include her husband, Leo Kellett, of the home; son, Joseph Morris and wife, Jackie, of Norman, Oklahoma; daughters, Sue Davis of Clayton, Oklahoma, Faye Crawley and husband, Marvin, of Ada, Oklahoma, and Toni Cody and husband, Cleo, of Antlers; daughter-in-law, Frankie Jeffus of Mount Holley, North Carolina; sister, Georgia McKinney of Idabel, Oklahoma; 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.



Clayton D. Gibson

Clayton D. Gibson, 64, of Denison, Texas, passed away April 13, 2004, in Denison. He was born August 13, 1939, in Hendrix, Oklahoma, to William and Thelma (Franklin) Gibson.

He married Susan Tamara Philiagios on March 12, 1984, in Denison. Some of his favorite hobbies include fishing, gardening, playing dominoes and working on cars. He will be missed by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Jimmy Wayne Gibson; brothers, Sonny and Amos Gibson, and sisters, Serena Gibson and Marie Harkins.

Survivors include his wife, Susan Gibson of Denison; sons and daughters-in-law, Clayton Jr. and Lori Gibson of Kingwood, Texas, and Gary and Tina Gibson of Bokchito, Oklahoma; daughters and sons-in-law, Terry Ann and Mark Woodall of Denison, Tammy Gibson of Mena, Arkansas, Ginny and Michael Delo and Wendy and Dale Needham, all of Ben Lomond, Arkansas, Tamara and Shane Able of Pottsboro, Texas, Teresa and Maynard Roberts of Denison, and Crystal Gibson of Sherman, Texas; sisters and brothers-in-law, Linda Newsom and Nerma and Teddy Embry, all of Denison, and Wynona and Eddie Lawrence of Mead, Oklahoma; an uncle, Benny Gibson of Bennington; 22 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Caroline "Corny" Taylor

Caroline "Corny" Taylor, 44, passed away April 9, 2004. She was born February 27, 1960, in Talihina, Oklahoma, to Arville David and Willa (Dozier) David. Corny had lived all her life in Choctaw County, Oklahoma, as a mother and homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her father, Arville David, on December 24, 2003.

Corny was loved by many family and friends. She was a very honest and caring person who will be missed.

Survivors include four sons, Ryan Scott Taylor, John William Taylor, Todd Wayne Taylor and Tad Pierce Taylor; mother, Willa David; two sisters, Cindy Allen and husband, Danny, and Bee Jay David; two brothers, Steve David and wife, Becky, and Scott David; one granddaughter, Mikela Lynn Taylor; five nieces; two nephews, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and many other very special friends.

"Papa" Arville David

Arville David, 64, passed away December 24, 2003. He was born June 19, 1939, in Fort Towson, Oklahoma, to Wister L. David and Jinnie N. (Gable) David.

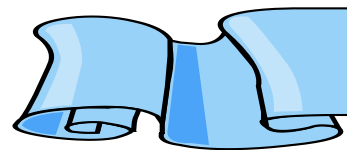
He lived all of his life in Fort Towson and married Willa Dozier on March 16, 1958, at Corinth Baptist Church in Fort Towson.

A dedicated family man and friend to many, he was a member of the Corinth Baptist Church and Fort Towson School Board and was active in youth summer league baseball and softball.

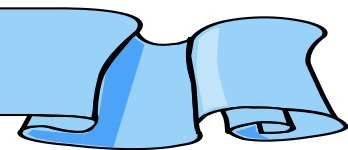
His parents and a brother, Hathaway David, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Willa David; two sons, Steve David and his wife, Becky, and Scott David, all of Fort Towson; two daughters, Cindy Allen and husband, Danny, and Corny Taylor, all of Fort Towson; one brother, Wyndle David of Sawyer, Oklahoma; three sisters, Eunella Satterfield and Bertha Micco, both of Hugo, Oklahoma, and Louella Barnett of Oklahoma City; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, cousins and other family.

Many special thanks from the family for all the caring and warm thoughts received.



OBITUARIES



Dr. Julius A. LaCroix Jr.

Julius A. LaCroix Jr., "June" to family members, passed away February 26, 2004. He was born June 13, 1919, on a Red River farm south of Soper, Oklahoma, near the community of Bluff, which was a part of his mother's allotment from the Choctaw Nation. He was the third child (second son) of Julius Alfred LaCroix and Ruth (Randell) LaCroix. LaCroix Sr. was of Scots-Irish and French descent from Louisiana and his mother was of Scots-English and Choctaw descent, one of the original enrollees of the tribe.



Dr. LaCroix attended elementary school at Goodland Indian School, junior high school in Antlers, Oklahoma, and graduated from Antlers High School in 1937. He entered Bacone College in the fall of 1937 and graduated in May 1940. While at Bacone he was active in many school activities and was a member of the famous "Singing Redmen" glee club. He attended Oklahoma A&M College one year before entering military service.

Julius was a member of Bacone's National Guard Company "I" 180th Infantry, 45th Division, and was mobilized for active duty with the company on September 16, 1940. He remained with the company as Supply Sergeant until 1942 when he transferred to the Army Air Corps. Julius completed navigation training at Mather Field on June 13, 1942, his 23rd birthday. He served in England in the Eighth Air Force and later in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Germany with the Troop Carrier Command. His group was engaged in dropping airborne troops behind enemy lines and delivering troops by airborne gliders into combat zones as well as transporting supplies and munitions. He was separated from the service at the end of the war in 1945 with the rank of Captain.

Julius set a goal early in life and though the odds appeared great, persevered until his goal was reached - to be a medical doctor. He practiced medicine in Hugo, Oklahoma, Choctaw County, for 32 years, retiring in September 1990. His service to the community has been outstanding and through his efforts and leadership, the county has one of the most modern hospitals in Southeastern Oklahoma. His dedication and devotion to his profession and the service rendered to his community is legend.

Dr. LaCroix married Charlene Fields on June 18, 1942. He received his M.D. in 1950 and moved to Hugo in 1952.

He has been an avid supporter of Bacone College throughout the years and is a member of Phi Beta Phi Fraternity, the American Medical Association, past president of the Oklahoma Medical Association, former Chief of Staff of the Choctaw Memorial Hospital, a founding member of the Choctaw Indian Veteran Warriors Society, board member of Bacone College and "Supply Sergeant" for many past reunions of his "I" Company comrades from Bacone. He was preceded in death by his wife, Charlene, and his older brother, Thomas E. LaCroix of Ft. Worth, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Charlene, and older brother, Thomas E. LaCroix of Fort Worth.

Survivors include his two children, Deborah (LaCroix) Taylor and Charles "Chuck" LaCroix, and one grandson, Chadwick L. Taylor, all of Hugo, Oklahoma; siblings, Christina Crews of Hugo, Jack Alfred LaCroix of Enid, Oklahoma, Eugene LaCroix of Port Arthur, Texas, and Judy LaCroix of Ft. Worth, the widow of his older brother, Thomas; sisters-in-law, Novella LaCroix of Enid and Mary Ann LaCroix of Port Arthur; many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and colleagues.

Rosie Davis Carn

Rosie Davis Carn, 88, of Wright City, Oklahoma, passed away January 20, 2004, at Christus St. Michael Hospital, Texarkana. She was born November 20, 1915, at Glover, Oklahoma, the daughter of Osbourn and Lena (Thomas) Nakishi.



She was married to the late Sam Carn. Rosie was a lifetime resident of McCurtain County, a homemaker who loved gardening, crocheting, quilting and flowers, very active in the Wright City Choctaw Senior Citizens group and a member of the Nanih Chito United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; three brothers, Benjamin Davis, Alfred Watson Davis and Jessie Davis, and one sister, Serena Davis.

Survivors include son, Gerald Davis of Wright City; granddaughter, Felecia Lynn Herd of Idabel, Oklahoma; two great-grandchildren, Alexander Battiest and Victoria Battiest of Broken Bow, Oklahoma; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

Frances Williams

Frances Williams, 78, of Idabel, Oklahoma, passed away April 24, 2004. She was born April 29, 1925, in the Goodwater Community, the daughter of Sam and Fannie (Going) Ott.



She was a homemaker and enjoyed fishing, sewing and spending time with her grandchildren. She was a member of the Bible Baptist Church and was a lifetime resident of McCurtain County. She was proud of the Choctaw Nation.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Hampton Williams in 2001; sons, Donell Williams and Sonny Williams; daughter, Lucille Seeley; grandsons, Benny Williams and Delvis Battiest; granddaughters, Tasha Williams, Marie Ann Harley, Atiya Williams.

Survivors include her sons and daughter-in-law, Marcus Williams and Timmy and Vivian Williams, all of Idabel; daughters and sons-in-law, Linda Ott of Oklahoma City, Lydia and Mike McClure of Idabel, Viola and Luther Battiest of Wright City, Oklahoma, Rose and Jim Shemwell of Idabel, Loretta and Ivan Battiest of Broken Bow, Bonnie Holt of Stilwell and Rita and Clayton Anna of Wright City; a brother, Buddy Tonihka of Albuquerque, New Mexico; sisters, Pauline Eyachabbe of Oklahoma City and Mary Belle Williston of Idabel; 27 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

Donna B. Folsom

Donna B. Folsom, 53, passed away April 17, 2004, in Plano, Texas. She was born April 18, 1950, in Lubbock, Texas, to Marjorie and A.E. Folsom Jr.

Donna was employed with GTE Telephone Company for 25 years and was the owner of Folsom Enterprises. She was a Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star in Brownwood, Texas, and was a member of the Arlington Gem and Mineral Society. Donna was very active with Japanese Chin Rescue and Care.

She was preceded in death by her parents; grandparents, A.E. Sr. and Velma Folsom, and great-grandparents, Jacob and Mary Folsom.

She is survived by a brother, Rodney Folsom of Lubbock.

Madeline (Peters) Elix

Madeline (Peters) Elix, 77, of Durant, Oklahoma, passed away April 29, 2004, at Calera Manor Nursing Home. She was born October 12, 1926, in Overbrook, Oklahoma, to Richardson and Lucy (Tubbee) Peters.

Madeline lived in Bryan County all of her life and attended Liberty schools. She later attended the Denison Business College. She married Clayburn Elix on July 9, 1946, in Tishomingo, Oklahoma. She worked as a housewife and also worked for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, from which she retired. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Abel Arkansas, Atchman Arkansas and Ervin Peters, and sisters, Emiline Shoemaker and Mae Peters.

Survivors include her husband, Clayburn; daughters, Beverly Elix, Gwen Elix, Laura Elix, Tammy Elix and Tracey Elix, all of Durant; special cousin, Susie Pistubbee of Durant; grandchildren, Leigh Suzette Long, Vince Long, Vance Long and Todd Long; two great-grandchildren and many other relatives and a host of dear friends.

James Alexander Roden

James Alexander "Crowfeather" Roden passed away January 22, 2004, after a brief courageous battle with cancer.

James was a computer programmer in Dallas, Texas. He leaves behind to all those who loved him many pictures - reminders of his enormous talent to capture life in all its beauty. As he interpreted, "A look at the world by a free spirit with a camera." He kept his camera by his side at all times. On his last visit to the hospital in Talihina when he was so weak, he grabbed his camera before he left, always ready to photograph what his eyes could not resist saving.

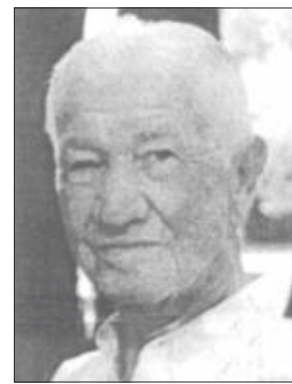
He lived in Clayton, Oklahoma. Many days were spent there enjoying the beauty and peacefulness of his land. He was also the founder of the "KOOKS," Kiamichi Order of Kinder Souls, a society of free spirits. He was also an artist and writer. James was a wonderful son, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend.

Survivors include his mother, Peggy Roebuck; daughter and son-in-law, Lori and Mike; granddaughters, Tiffany and Kristi; grandson, Mikey; great-granddaughter, Brookelynn; brothers, Ray, Bob and John; sisters, Peggy, Linda and Barbara, and many nieces and nephews.

We will miss him forever. His smile will always remain in our hearts.

Melvin Kenneth "Buck" DeLoach

Longtime Coalgate, Oklahoma, resident Melvin Kenneth "Buck" DeLoach, 82, passed away March 20, 2004, at St. John's Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born March 25, 1921, near the Parker Community in Coal County, Oklahoma, to William Middleton and Lillie Mae (Armer) DeLoach.



He graduated from Coalgate with the class of 1939, attended Oklahoma State University and married Gloria Lovella Sparks on May 27, 1948, in Kermit, Texas. Buck worked many years as an oilfield mud engineer. After coming back to Coalgate he served as the director of the Big Five Community Action Program from 1968 to 1975. He was a longtime Baptist, a 32nd degree mason and veteran of World War II. He loved camping, being with his grandchildren and hanging out at the coffee shops.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters, Nevada, Una Mae and Vanetta, and three brothers, Otho, Enid and Billy Charles.

Survivors include his wife, Lovella of the home; three daughters, Darla Davenport and husband, Tony, of Weatherford, Oklahoma, Darita Huckabee and husband, Brian, of Tulsa, and Donna DeLoach of Colorado Springs, Colorado; five grandchildren, Matthew Davenport of Edmond and Megan Davenport and Nathan Davenport, both of Weatherford, Mary Page Huckabee and Alex DeLoach Huckabee, both of Tulsa, Oklahoma; two sisters, Davette Cauthorn and Jean Bradley, both of Coalgate; along with numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives and many very dear and loved friends.

Tux Bowen

Tux Bowen, 92, of Scipio, Oklahoma, passed away February 23, 2004, at Tulsa Regional Medical Center. He was born November 28, 1911, in Scipio to Lon Huey and Rhoda (Folsom) Bowen. He grew up there and had lived virtually all his life in Scipio.

Mr. Bowen attended the Scipio Baptist Church for many years. He married Viola Owens on November 7, 1936, in Visalia, California. His main occupation was ranching, but he and his wife also owned and operated the Scipio Grocery Store for a number of years. He was a well-known figure at the McAlester Stockyards where he bought and sold cattle, not only for himself but also as a broker for other ranchers. He had also served as mayor of Scipio years ago and worked as a deputy sheriff in the 1970s. Tux was also a member of the Scipio baseball team in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s.

He was preceded in death by his wife, parents, three brothers and one sister.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Sonny and Larenda Bowen of Scipio and Joe and Anita Bowen of McAlester, Oklahoma; two daughters and sons-in-law, Betty and Jim Barnes of McAlester and Reta and Benny Powell of Tannehill; 11 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; two nephews, Truman Herron of Durant, Oklahoma, and Dean Bowen of Indianola, Oklahoma, and one niece, Mariada Jobe of Grant, Oklahoma.

Rebecca Sue Sant

Rebecca Sue Sant, 54, passed away February 20, 2004. She was born October 26, 1949, in Stonewall, Oklahoma, to the Rev. Lewis and Donna Brandy.

A loving mother, grandmother and sister, Rebecca lived her life for her children. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her as Mom, Meme and Aunt Sue.

Survivors include a daughter, Kiwantha Sant of Durant, Oklahoma; a son, Garron Sant Jr. of Durant; two grandsons, Zachary of Durant and Montrel of Dallas, Texas; two granddaughters, Anissa and Isabella, both of Durant; three sisters and one brother, Mary Sockey of McAlester, Oklahoma, Helen Wilson of Garland, Texas, Geraldine Tipps of Dallas and Lewis Brandy Jr. of Antlers, Oklahoma.



Monroe Thomas "Jay" Isom Sr.

Monroe Thomas "Jay" Isom Sr., 77, passed away April 3, 2004, at his home in Daisy, Oklahoma. He was born January 13, 1927, in Daisy to Angie and Charlie Isom, the seventh of nine children.

Growing up in Southeastern Oklahoma in the 1930s was difficult to say the least. Jay learned the value of free enterprise at an early age. By the time he started school, he was given a runt pig which he raised to a sow, which rewarded him with a litter of pigs. He traded his pig crop for a pair of jennies and bartered for a wagon which he hired out for light hauling. He was now in the freight hauling business. During his early teens, he figured that if you could play music, you would be invited to lots of parties, so he traded for a second-hand guitar and taught himself to sing and play. Later, Jay's sister, Virgie, married and moved to California, so Jay went West.

He lived with his sister and worked in the shipyards where he welded the inside seams of containers that bigger welders couldn't reach. When the war broke out in the '40s, he went to serve his country in the Army, serving his first hitch in the Philippines, and seeing much action in the field and on the base. He actually served two military hitches in the Army and was Honorably Discharged a Sergeant. After his discharge, he worked in the cotton fields in New Mexico where he met his future bride. Norene recalls seeing this handsome, cocky young man that seemed so full of himself.

One day, the trailer that held the picked cotton somehow caught on fire. Everyone in the field stood around wondering what to do, when this dashing young man jumped into the smoldering trailer and threw out the burning cotton to save the trailer. He won her admiration and her heart. She was 15 and he was 22, so his future mother-in-law drove with them to Texas to forge a marriage that would last for over 55 years. Their first home was in New Mexico on a cotton farm where they plowed, planted and irrigated the cotton crop. Their first crop was a record crop of tall, healthy plants, averaging 30 boles to the stalk. Their farming future was looking very promising, when, just before harvest, a big hailstorm beat the cotton into the ground. In one afternoon, a farming career ended.

The young couple came to Daisy and built a house on the side of a mountain. They tried to make a living cutting logs with a crosscut saw, but that was a very meager living for a growing family. During the summers, they would go West to work construction jobs in New Mexico, logging jobs in Washington and in Colorado. Wherever they went, you could count on several family members or friends living along with them. Jay was always very concerned about his friends and neighbors.

When he was 41 years old, he was involved in a construction accident while working on the Indian Nation Turnpike that left him missing his left leg and disabled for life. Shortly after coming home to Daisy from the hospital, he decided that the community needed a sawmill. Many of his neighbors were living on a fixed income, and needed the extra income to make ends meet. The sawmill was a place to work when you needed to without punching a time clock. Jay spent many long, happy hours leaning on his crutches at the mill with a hurrah string in his hand. We say happy because he was happiest when he was working. Many people in Daisy Valley got a paycheck and an education at Jay's sawmill. He stood on one leg and ran that sawmill for several years.

After ill health forced him out of the sawmill business, he turned back to his love of music. Needing to stay busy at least 99% of the time, one of his favorite sayings was, "Let's do something, even if it's wrong!" That was not the case when he hooked up with some area musicians to form a band. The Daisy Valley Boys have played for events all around the Sooner State, as far away as Kingfisher and Chickasha. They stayed busy playing for local parades, fundraisers, rodeos and VFW events. Jay's gift of gab made him a natural to lead the band and emcee many of the events that they played. They recorded a couple of songs, but who would have guessed that 45s would be outdated?

One of his proudest accomplishments was to organize and preside over the South Central Chapter of the Sooner Fiddler's Association. They had their meetings and played music at the Farmer's Market in Atoka and commonly greeted over 100 people in attendance. Jay's love of live and zeal for living made him a great friend and husband. His genuine concern for others made him a great dad.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Anganora Billy; father, Charley Henry Isom; daughter, Phyllis Isom; grandson, Billy Colter Isom; brothers, Frank Page, Bob Page, Adolphus Isom, and Joe Isom, and sister, Opal Burleson.

Survivors include his wife, Norene Isom of the home; children, Ramona Lucas of Holdenville, Oklahoma, Monroe Thomas Isom Jr. and wife, Tracey, of Daisy, Fred Isom and wife, Floretta, and Kevin Isom and wife, Ruth, all of Kingfisher, Oklahoma; 13 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren; brother, C.H. Isom and wife, Nadine, of Daisy; sisters, Audrey Burleson, Virgie Stout and Alice Hutson, all of Daisy; several nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Kenneth Ellem Frazier

Kenneth Ellem Frazier, 65, of Hopewell, Texas, passed away May 13, 2004, in the Paris Regional Medical Center. He was born February 20, 1939, in Nashoba, Oklahoma, the son of Eslin Nelson and Lillie Mae (Taylor) Frazier. He graduated in 1959 from Clayton High School in Clayton, Oklahoma, where he was active in athletics and was an assistant coach for the girls' basketball team his senior year. He served three tours of duty in Vietnam, serving in the U.S. Army and receiving a Purple Heart, a Vietnam Service Ribbon and a Combat Infantry Ribbon, both with clusters. He then graduated from PJC, receiving a degree in Construction Applications.

He was preceded in death by his father; a daughter, Donna Frazier; three brothers, Virgil Frazier, David Frazier and Darrell Frazier; and two sisters, Lula Frazier and Sandra Kay Frazier.

Survivors include his children, Kenneth Frazier Jr. and Chris Bills, both of Hopewell, and Amanda Frazier of Paris, Texas; his mother, Lillian Frazier of Deport, Texas; four brothers, Leonard "Buck" Frazier of Deport, Austin Frazier and Allen Frazier, both of Paris, and James Frazier of Mesquite, Texas; four sisters, Lillian "Lee" Kincaid of Deport, Linda Frazier and Brenda Dudley, both of Paris and Terry Hood of Irving, Texas; five grandchildren, Kaitlin, Lauren and Eslin Benjamin Frazier and Madison and Raven Frazier.

Arle Vernon "A.V." Crews

Arle Vernon "A.V." Crews, 73, of Hugo, Oklahoma, passed away February 15, 2004, in Paris, Texas. He was born October 6, 1930, in Hugo to J.A. and Leta E. (Thorpe) Crews.

He married Lynette Sadler on January 9, 1954, in Hugo.

A.V. lived in Hugo all of his life. He was a route salesman for Colvert Dairy. He was a member of the American Legion, VFW, Indian Veterans Warrior Society and Woodman of the World.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Cecil Thompson, and a granddaughter, Angela Crews.

Survivors include his wife, Lynette Sadler Crews; one son, Vernon Tim Crews and his wife, Elizabeth, of Denton, Texas; a daughter, Sharon Arlene Crews and her husband, Keith, of Springfield, Missouri; two brothers, Elmer D. Crews of Hugo and Joseph Crews of Dallas, Texas; one sister, Aileen W. McKenzie of Hugo; four grandchildren, Sharolyn Janice McCoy Cerney of Seattle, Washington, Robert Vernon McCoy of Springfield, John Vernon Crews and Mollie Lynette Crews of Denton; a host of nieces, nephews and friends.



Choctaw veterans are honored each year at the Okla Chahta Gathering.



We would all like to wish Andrew Amos a very happy birthday in April!!!



Chief Pyle is pictured with this year's Okla Chahta Princess contestants, 2nd Runner-up Cheyenne Wood, 1st Runner-up Laryn Watson and Miss Okla Chahta 2004 Elizabeth Bryant.



Benny Gibson and Lena Bishop visit with Councilperson Perry Thompson.

9th Annual Okla Chahta Gathering Bakersfield, California May 15-16, 2004



The Choctaw Nation presented Norma Howard prints to Okla Chahta Board Members Kim Helwig, Deana Banks, Gina Wood, Jerry Wood, Theresa Harrison and Bill Harrison.



Jack Holliday, Councilperson Ted Dosh, Betty Risener Holliday, Karen Cooley Gibson, Frances Risener Cooley and Jack Risener Jr.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Council Speaker Kenny Bryant present a veteran's cap and jacket to Jeff Estep.



Youngsters enjoy playing the corn game.



Marjorie Krebbs, Councilperson Charlotte Jackson and Connie Krebbs.



Three-year-old Corey Mueller takes a break.



Chief Pyle, Curtis Wyrick and Bitty Rackley.



Gabe Paxton, formerly of Talihina, Oklahoma, and his daughter, Dee Paxton, visit with Councilperson Ted Dosh.



R.C. Abbott, a Choctaw from District 7, chats with Councilperson Jack Austin.



Mike Slayton and Dennis Walker cook for the crowd.



Broken Bow Dancers demonstrate Choctaw social dances.



Bill Harrison presents a T-shirt to the oldest person attending the gathering, Bill McGee, 87, of Santa Maria, California.



Jeanell Lee, Jon Lee, Sean Lee, Chief Pyle, Jon-Jon Lee, Frank Soanes and Paulette Soanes.



Youth from Broken Bow, Oklahoma, take on a group from the Chumash tribe in a game of stickball.



Councilperson Bob Pate visits with Barbara Quinton.



Tribal Chaplain Bertram Bobb and Mike Jefferson.



Ben Smallwood, loser of the "Ugly Choctaw" contest, and Councilperson Bob Pate.



Rudeen Johnson and Margaret Teal, CMSE.



Mary Wiltshire, Councilperson Mike Amos and Karen Coope.

Graveside ceremony honors fallen soldier

Four-foot monument unveiled on anniversary of Jerod Dennis' death



Arthur Ketcheshawno honors Jerod Dennis with a Warrior Song.

Code of Conduct #1

I am an American fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life for my country. - PS Pray for me.

- Jerod Dennis, included in a letter to his Mom

A special ceremony was held at Sugarcreek Cemetery, Soper, on April 25, 2004 - one year after the death of Pvt. Jerod Dennis in an ambush in Afghanistan. People gathered in the quiet cemetery to honor the 19-year-old from Antlers. A magnificent four-foot monument was unveiled at his gravesite, a loving tribute paid for by family, friends, and donations from as far away as Canada. As strains of "America" rose above the trees to Heaven, tears flowed when Jerod's brother and sister, Jordan and Jillian, uncovered the stone.

"Faithful soldiers like Jerod make us know we can live in a country that is protected," said Blake Gideon.

The Choctaw Nation Color Guard gave a 21-gun salute, followed by the playing of taps. Arthur Ketcheshawno sang the Warrior Song for the fallen soldier and Danielle Dowling read a poem for her cousin, "An American Hero."



Family members gather by the monument - Jerry Dennis, Jordan Dennis, Charlie Dankers, Sheila Dankers, Elizabeth Dankers, Jane Dennis, Jillian Dennis, Casey Dankers, Jami Martin and Abby Martin.

PFC Blea working with Iraqi people

PFC John Lovell Blea of the 731st National Guard Transport Unit out of Dodge City, Kansas, has been in Iraq for a year. During the last few months he has worked with the Iraqi people and in his Balad has also somewhat adopted a family that he and we at home are trying to help and support. Times are very rough there and they have three children, ages ten, five and three. John has had his second birthday away from home and at the age of 21 keeps his thoughts close to God. He is the son of Theodore and Brenda Blea of Dodge City. He is the great-grandson to the Rockman family and the great-great-grandson to Elizabeth (Lizzie) Folsom, an original enrollee.

Other family members are also in Iraq and all are being prayed for.



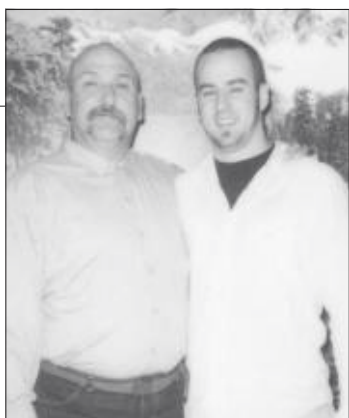
Robinson graduates Military Academy

Phillip Aaron Robinson, son of Bobby Robinson of Phoenix, Arizona, graduated Dobson High School, Phoenix, in May 2000. He attended Arizona State University before entering the Military Police Division of the Military Academy at Ft. Leonardwood, Missouri. After graduation June 4, he plans to return to Arizona State University to finish earning his degree. Grandparents are Bud and Ruby McCoy of Canadian, Oklahoma and Jim Robinson of Concho, Arizona. Phillip is a descendant of the late Evelina Pusley-Hayes, an original enrollee.



Jesse Motley becomes Marine

David Motley of Coalinga, California, would like to let his son, Jesse Motley, know just how proud he is of him. Jesse completed U.S. Marine training and is now on active duty. He looks forward to the time when the two will be back in the sweat lodge together and prays that Grandfather will bring Jesse home soon.



Tyler Main joins U.S. Air Force

Tyler Main has joined the U.S. Air Force and is stationed at Robbins Air Force Base, Georgia. Tyler's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Main, and brother, Samuel, reside at Antlers, Oklahoma. He also has grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Brown, living in Enid, Oklahoma, and two great-grandmothers, Mrs. T.R. Winn of Bristow, Oklahoma, and Dellois Brown of Hennessy, Oklahoma.



Ft. Hood Soldier of the Month

Spc. Jerrod James, who twice won honors as Soldier of the Month and of the Quarter with his unit at Ft. Hood, Texas, left on March 11 for Iraq. After a brief training in Kuwait, Jerrod is stationed near Baghdad, Iraq.

He is a 1997 graduate of Broken Bow High School and has attended Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton and Oklahoma State Tech in Okmulgee. Jerrod is the son of Pam McKinney of Broken Bow and the grandson of Eddie McKinney of Honobia and the late Nora McKinney. His wife, Laura James, resides in Killeen, Texas, where she awaits his return.



McPhail is loving retirement

Hugh McPhail joined Co. H - 279th Inf - 45 Inf Division in 1947 at the age of 15 and finished his military service in 1977, retiring a Lieutenant Colonel.

Hugh recently retired from Boeing with 45 years as an electrician. He is currently Historian of the 140th Tank BN - Kierny Mesa, California. He joined the American Legion in Hemet in October 2003, a member of Post #53. After six months, Hugh was elected second vice president and head of the BN committee. He is on the Honor Guard which officiates at Riverside National Cemetery on the first Wednesday of each month. His wife, Carol, is the Honor Guard Dispatcher each Thursday.

In March, Hugh joined the VFW on the Soboba Indian Reservation in San Jacinto, California. During the first meeting he was appointed "Buddy Poppy" Chairman. He is also in charge of starting an Honor Guard for the post.

Major General Bob D. DuLaney

Major General Bob D. DuLaney is Director of Plans, Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. Gen. DuLaney is responsible for planning for the safeguarding of the air sovereignty of North America - Canada, Alaska and the continental United States; originating joint and binational plans and agreements to accomplish surveillance, aerospace warning and aerospace control, and programming the development, employment and sustainment of Canadian and U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps forces at contingency and wartime bases.

Gen. DuLaney was born in Dumas, Texas, and completed Texas Tech University's ROTC program in 1973. He has commanded the U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons Schools F-16 Division, an operations group, a combatant Combined Task Force and a fighter wing. He is a command pilot with more than 4,400 flying hours, including 353 combat hours.

Gen. DuLaney is the grandson of Beulah Marie (Thomas) Cariker of Dumas and the great-grandson of Sweeney Thomas. His mother is Thelma Caricker of Sacramento, California.



Veterans Association members attend training

Four members of the Choctaw Veterans Association attended Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officers Training May 6 and 7 at the Cherokee Nation Complex in Tahlequah. Attending were Dixon Lewis, Mid-member; Nellie Hunter, Member-at-large and acting secretary/treasurer; Richard Adams, President, and Eugene Folsom, Chairman, Pow Wow committee.

Five participate in Youth Turkey Shoot



Billy Bailey, Choctaw Nation; John Michael Brewer, Event Coordinator; Alex Baker of Caddo; Vesta Baker; Larry Wade, Choctaw Nation, and Officer Ed Cunnius, ODWC.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, in conjunction with the National Wild Turkey Federation and Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF, hosted the Choctaw Nation Youth Turkey Shoot for special needs American Indian teens, April 23-24 on the Sawyer Ranch in Sawyer, Oklahoma. Participants were Alex Baker, 14, of Caddo; Thomas Bankston, 18, of Achille; James Himes, 16, of Valliant; Dustin Hodges, 17, of Crowder, and Samson Smith, 16, of Valliant.

These five young men from across the 10 1/2 county region participated in this first such event, which included two days of activities. Officers Ed Cunnius and Mike Smith of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation's STEP Program instructed the kids on how to safely prepare for a hunt. Gun safety and safety in the woods were also stressed in the Friday session. All five participants, along with several parents, were able to participate in a skeet shooting session with Officer Cunnius.

According to John Michael Brewer, event coordinator, the skeet session was extremely interesting. "One of the participants was a young man who was born blind. After several attempts and help from Officer Cunnius, this young man actually hit six of the skeet thrown for him. It was absolutely amazing," he said.

Events also included a fish fry, a program by Dr. Ed Bernard on the conservation of God's creations, singing around the campfire and a campout in an army tent. Bluegrass recording artist Bill Grant of Hugo was the master of ceremonies for the campfire singing. He recited cowboy poetry and stories and sang bluegrass, gospel and country songs.



Billy Bailey, Choctaw Nation; John Michael Brewer, Event Coordinator; Samson Smith of Valliant; Linda Vaughn; Officer Ed Cunnius, ODWC, and Larry Wade, Choctaw Nation.

Though inclement weather dampened the Saturday morning hunt, all concerned had a great time. "The weather just simply didn't cooperate, but hopefully, next year, whoever the participants may be, will be able to have the thrill of hunting turkeys," said Brewer. Additionally, Brewer would like to express his gratitude for the help which so many countless persons contributed to this wonderful event.



John Michael Brewer, Event Coordinator; Billy Bailey, Choctaw Nation; Johnny Himes; Larry Wade, Choctaw Nation; Officer Ed Cunnius, ODWC, and seated, James Himes.



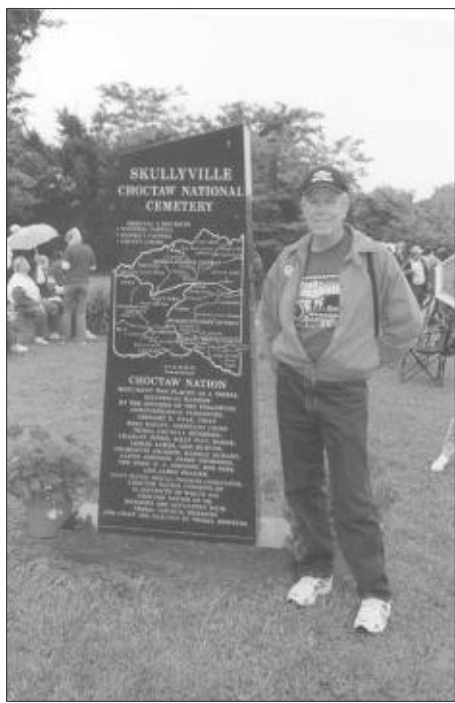
John Michael Brewer, Event Coordinator; Billy Bailey, Choctaw Nation; Dustin Hodges of Crowder; Scott Hodges; Larry Wade, Choctaw Nation, and Officer Ed Cunnius, ODWC.



Billy Bailey, Choctaw Nation; John Michael Brewer, Event Coordinator; Thomas Bankston of Achille; Larry Wade, Choctaw Nation, and Officer Ed Cunnius, ODWC.

Trail of Tears Walk

May 1, 2004



Ron Folsom traveled from Alabama to join in the commemorative walk.



Councilperson Delton Cox is wearing his 2004 Trail of Tears Walk T-shirt.

Continued from Page 1

"As we stood in the cemetery at Skullyville, and as we walked along that narrow road, I thought of our ancestors," said Speaker of the Council Kenny Bryant. "I thought that a child may have died along that Trail of Tears in the 1830s, simply because they didn't have the medicine they needed. I am thankful for our hospital and thankful to our Chief for making sure we have a place to obtain quality health care."

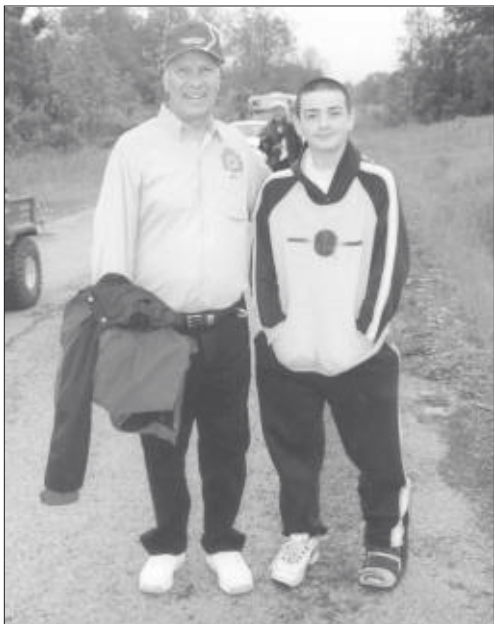
"As we walked, we all remembered a walk our ancestors shared 175 years ago - a long, sad march from Mississippi," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. The Chief said that the Choctaws who had come along that 500-mile march would be proud of the progress that tribal members had made today. The Community Center in Spiro is the newest of 16 centers located across the 12 districts of the Choctaw Nation, and a 17th center, in Smithville, will soon be open.

"In addition to the large hospital in Talihina, the Choctaws have a choice of clinics in Po-teau, Broken Bow, Hugo and McAlester. A new clinic in Idabel is being built, and a clinic in Stigler is about 75% complete," said Chief Pyle.

Tribal Council members in attendance all spoke of their appreciation of the large number of people who had joined them for the day of remembrance.



Jones Academy students Ursula Davis, Roberta Dixon, Darylene Blaine and Stacey Salkey read one of the many tombstones at Skullyville Cemetery.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle is pictured with Zach Underwood of Quinton. Zach walked with a broken ankle.



Julia Watson, Edith Sinyard, Mary Lou Phillips and Pat Hughes, all of Smithville.



Mary McNabb, Joanna Spradlin, Danny Jo Spradlin, Danny R. Spradlin and Amy Spradlin.



Shirley and Jerry Lowman and Leona Samuels, all of Smithville.



Jim and Shirley Bushong of Odessa, Texas, and Chief Pyle.



Louise Ott and Dellora Miles of Coal County.



Tribal Chaplain Bertram Bobb and Councilpersons Hap Ward, Perry Thompson, Jack Austin and Charlotte Jackson.



Melissa Cantsbury and April Washee of Jones Academy.



Betty Billey of Keota, Ilena Krausch of Stigler and Norma Coleman of LeQuire.



Councilperson Ted Dosh and Little Miss Choctaw Nation Morgan Steve.



John Brown tips a greeting.



Kira and Tori Honeycutt of Coweta.



Lance Berry and Prevon Erving of McAlester.



Mildred Fish of Arkoma, Oklahoma, came prepared for inclement weather.



Councilperson James Frazier, seated, listens to Speaker Kenny Bryant.



Chief Pyle visits with Delia and Willis Wesley of Wright City. Delia's father, Ben Carterby, was an original Code Talker.