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March 2005 Issue

Council okays improvements at Tushka Homma

Tribal Council members voted in the February 12, 2005, Regular Session to appropriate \$325,000 for improvements at the Tribal Capitol Grounds at Tushka Homma. Improvements at the historic grounds include an updated sewer system, new bathhouse facilities for campers and a concession stand in front of the amphitheater.

The Council also gave approval to replace the existing steel storm shelters for the Choctaw Nation Head Start Program with new concrete shelters.

Votes were unanimous to allocate funds for equipment and supplies to preserve inactive Choctaw cemeteries located within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation. These preservation efforts are operated through the Choctaw Nation Cultural Resource Department.

Council members voted to supplement the Title VI budget with an additional \$125,000. Title VI, commonly known as the Nutrition Program, provides the meals for Senior Citizens at the Community Centers.

The Council approved appropriating \$600,000 from gaming revenues to the Office of Environmental Health so that they can keep pace with the growing demand for water and sewer infrastructure.

The Tribal Council approved submission of grant requests to:

• The U.S. Department of Education for the Early Ready First Program to



Kids helping kids

Children throughout the Choctaw Nation gave from their hearts as they raided their piggy banks and asked for donations to help in the tribe's recent drive to aid tsunami victims. Above, the Choctaw Nation Head Start class in Stigler raised \$113 for Save the Children. Pictured are students Jaylen Cloud, Nolan Smith, Macie Hare, Lexy Ball, Ruben Ball, Alysa Nichols, Anthony Norman, Olivia Gafney, Destiny Followell, Cole Crase, Cale Crase, Kaiden Cloud and Matthew Jenkins. In back are teachers Terri Goff, Cindy Tanksley, Norma Buckner and Jody Ford and Choctaw Nation Council Person Charlotte Jackson. The Stigler Grade School also pitched in, raising \$95. Standing with Council Person Jackson are representatives from grades one through four – Shane Quick, first grade, and Brady Turner, second grade, holding the check; B.J. Best, fourth grade, and Weston Dixon, third grade.



Save the Children working tirelessly

The President of Save the Children recently wrote to thank the Choctaw Nation for the \$210,000 tsunami aid and to give an update on the organization's work.

"We also have initiated a post-disaster recovery program for Indonesian children and families, which will be the largest in our history," said Charles F. MacCormack, President of the Save the Children.

Over the next five years, the humanitarian organization will be helping rebuild homes, schools, health care facilities, incomes and social services so crucial to a child's well-being.

"The Choctaw Nation's gift for Save the Children's relief and recovery efforts in south Asia is a powerful reminder that the human spirit is unflinching in its desire to help those in need," MacCormack said. "I'm profoundly grateful to you for stewarding one of the largest private gifts we have received since December 26."

"We wouldn't have been able to reach the \$210,000 mark without everyone's help," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "We would like to say thank you to all of the citizens and businesses who contributed their time, money and items for the tsunami aid fund."



enhance the reading skills of preschool-age children,

• The U.S. Department of Agriculture for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine to reach as many community centers and Head Starts as possible with online courses in such topics as diabetes/health awareness and Choctaw Language courses,

• The Oklahoma Arts Council to assist in promoting cultural heritage through the annual Labor Day Festival,

• The Institute of Museum and Library Services for the Native American Library Services Basic and Enhancement Library to provide basic staff training and technology updates at the Jones Academy Library,

• The National Endowment for the Arts for the Access to Artistic Excellence to assist with hosting the Labor Day Festival,

• The U.S. Department of Education for the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Grant to improve student reading skills by providing students access to upto-date library materials, well equipped, technologically advanced library media centers and well-trained library staff,

• The Department of Homeland Security /FEMA for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program to provide Safe Rooms at Early Childhood Centers across the Choctaw Nation, and

• The National Park Service for the FY/2005 Historic Preservation Fund to assist in restoration and preservation of the Capitol Building in Tushka Homma.

The Council approved appropriating \$600,000 from gaming revenues to the Office of Environmental Health so that they can keep pace with the growing demand for water and sewer infrastructure.



Cyrus Battiest

Delanie Lime

Alisha Picone

Richard Pedro

Jones Academy Super Students

Four students from Jones Academy's Campus Elementary School were named Super Students for the semester and two students from the Hartshorne Elementary School received the honor for the second nine weeks.

Ms. Dawkins' class

Cyrus Battiest, first grade, is described as an excellent student who completes his work and is kind to others. Cyrus always offers a "helping hand" when needed.

Delanie Lime is also in the first grade. According to the teacher, Ms. Dawkins, she is a very good listener and completes her work very nicely. Delanie is a wonderful role model for her classmates.

Ms. Dusenberry's grades

Alisha Picone is in the third grade. She is always willing to help in any way she can. Alisha has a positive attitude and can be counted on to give 100% in everything she does. Some of her hobbies include basketball, kickball, and baseball.

Richard Pedro, fourth grade, works hard and has a friendly attitude. Richard was chosen because of his attitude and the effort he puts forth in his work. He can always be counted on to have a happy smile. Some of his hobbies are football, soccer, and working on school work.

At Hartshorne North Ward Elementary

At Hartshorne grade school, De-Jay Wyly was chosen as Super Student in Mr. Brigance's sixth grade class. Mr. Brigance said De-Jay tries to the best of his ability to keep up with his assignments and is polite and well-mannered in his class.

Alexandria Picone was chosen by Ms. Simmons as her fifth grade super student. Alexandria tries very hard to maintain good grades and is well liked by students and staff.

Elementary School, received a certificate of achievement, an honors pin, and honors dog tag necklace.

Tears Walk to be held **April 23**

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council invites everyone to participate in the Skullyville Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk to be held Saturday, April 23. Ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. at the historic Skullyville Cemetery, which is the National Cemetery of the Choctaw Nation. The walk will end at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Spiro, which is four miles from the cemetery. The tribe will serve a free lunch at the center to thank all who participated.

Please park your cars at the community center on Hwy. 9 in Spiro and ride a shuttle bus to the cemetery. There is very little parking at the cemetery. Hope to see you all there!

Marshall Foundation Gift



Nat and Evelyn Marshall presented Brad Spears, Administrator of Jones Academy, a gift of \$10,000 on behalf of Jon Marshall and the Virginia LeFlore Marshall Scholarship Foundation. This gift gives each college student who graduates from Jones Academy \$250 and the Jones Academy Christmas fund \$3,000. The balance of the gift goes into the Jones Academy Scholarship Fund. The students and staff of Jones Academy are very appreciative of the annual gift.

Social worker is awarded for dedication

Director Randy Hammons announced on December 23 that

Social Workers Help starts here.

Alicia Herell was March is National named the 2004 **Social Work Month** Employee of the Year for the pro-

grams under his direction. Alicia is a Social Worker with the Choctaw Nation Community Based Social Work Program. Her office is located at the Rubin White Clinic in Poteau. Alicia was given this award for her dedication and commitment to her job/profession.

The Community Based Social Work Program's primary mission is to enhance the well-being and meet the needs of Choctaw families and other Native Americans by empowering individuals who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. The program offers social services to families by evaluating the needs of the home and assisting the family as a unit to function more adequately through tribal and community resources.



Randy Hammons presents Alicia Herell the award for Social Work Employee of the Year.

The Community Based Social Work and Victim Assistance Programs invite you to celebrate March 2005 as National Social Work Month.

Alexandria and De-Jay attended a pizza party at North Ward

Congratulations to each of these students.



Appreciates thoughtfulness

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you for your donations and support during our third annual Junior High Basketball Tournament. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Keota Basketball Teams, Coach Ladd and Coach Parker

Many acts of kindness

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you Chief Pyle, Charles Clark, and Joy Culbreath for your many acts of kindness during this long struggle to heal my son. He is making a lot of progress but still has a long way to go. Your prayers and support have meant more to us than you can ever imagine. I think of each of you and how you have touched Steve's life. He still wants to graduate with his BA and I know with God's help and your prayers he will do just that.

Dena and Steve Butler

A help during the holidays

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank Janie Dillard and staff for the grocery baskets we received during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. It helped us out a lot. So, may our Creator bless everyone who had a hand in the project.

The Gipsons of Atoka, Oklahoma

Community remembered at Christmas Dear Editor,

I wanted to send a Thank You to our Councilman, Mr. Joe Coley. It was so nice for the community of Buffalo Valley to be remembered at Christmastime. The children along with the parents had a wonderful time at the Christmas party. Thank you.

Kristy Williams

Seeking information on Battiest families

Dear Editor,

Looking for Battiest families that arrived in Chief Moshulatubbe's district in 1832 with Capt. William Bohannon's party. Particularly interested if anyone can give me information about Capt. Benjamin or Winney (Winna) Battiest (Battiste, Battice, Baptiste). Please contact Frances Youngblood at 662-396-1739 or e-mail merrywinters@bellsouth.net.

Assistance appreciated

Dear Chief Pyle,

On behalf of Kiamichi Family Medical Center in Battiest, thank you for your assistance with the new septic system for the clinic.

I look forward to working with Choctaw Nation for improved health services in our isolated area of Southeastern Oklahoma.

I appreciate your efforts to expand health care for the Choctaw people everywhere.

Pat Boggs

Hospital provides wonderful care

Dear Chief Pyle,

I am writing this letter to inform you of the wonderful care my family and I have received from the staff and medical care personnel of Choctaw Nation Health Care Center. Over a year ago, when I became pregnant with my son, I received excellent care from the entire staff of the Women's Clinic. From the ladies who checked me in with a smile to the nurses, doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and nurse midwives, I truly believe I could not have received better care. Next, I want to point out some very special nurses in the OB unit who not only helped to safely deliver my son but who also helped my daughter, husband and I after my son was delivered. The care and compassion were abundant and greatly appreciated. Next in line are the staff and medical personnel of the Pediatrics Clinic who have been so wonderful to my son, Eli. As a parent, I know you understand when I write the well-being of my children is everything to me. Everyone who works in the Pediatrics Clinic is always helpful, understanding and caring. Just last week my son became very ill and the nurses and doctors acted quickly and cautiously to ensure my son's recovery. While my son was in the hospital, the care he received was outstanding and all who cared for him also took the time to care for me. This meant a lot to me since there were times when I really needed a little extra support. I want to give you the names of the people who have really made a difference. Women's Clinic - all who work in the clinic; OB - Debbie Goldsborough, Susan Lyons, Elizabeth Hammons, Lisa Russell, Donna Long, Suzan Cloyd, Lori King, Beverly, Joni Yarness, CNM, Dr. Cayer, Dr. Goodman, Dr. Cole and Dr. Fasehun; Pediatrics - all who work in the clinic; In-patient care - Cheryl Grosfield, LPN, Jessica Ludlow, NA, Sam Rossen, LPN, Cindy Atteberry, RN, Daisy Perry, NA, Dee Jefferson, RN, Sid, April, Sandy, Brenda, Brenda, Shelly Clark, Dr. Greer, Ross Green and pharmacy staff, Mary Nell Southard, Charlotte Coleman and kitchen staff, lab personnel as well as many others who I was unable to get names for.

Grateful for scholarship

Dear Chief Pyle,

My wife and I are thankful for the scholarship award presented to our son, Jared. These funds are greatly appreciated and beneficial for paying the expenses related to higher education for our son and other children in our family, which total six.

Jared, who turned 15 in July, is enrolled as a college freshman within the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science Program at the University of North Texas, Denton. This program allows talented students to complete their freshman and sophomore years of college while earning their high school diplomas. To my knowledge, he is the only Choctaw student ever accepted into their program and is also one of the youngest students in the program which normally accepts students who are 16 years of age.

Your scholarship program and helpful staff are to be commended on their assistance, especially Mr. Wade and Ms. Culbreath.

> Gary Cocke Mansfield, Texas

Tribe is dedicated to education Dear Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey and the Choctaw Nation,

I am writing this note in an effort to express my thanks to all of you for your generous contributions to my college education. Thanks to your support, I graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Literature on the 18th of December, 2004, from the University of Oklahoma in Norman. I am already looking into graduate programs to further my education, with hopes of receiving both a master's and a doctorate in English within the next five to six years.

Without the laudable assistance of the Choctaw Nation, I surely would not be in this position, and I want to ensure the Tribal Council that the scholarships and stipends they see fit to administer to students in need do not go unnoticed; rather, I view the aid I received as a Godsend. The funds always seemed to arrive just when I needed them the most, and I feel that neglecting to acknowledge such support is inconsiderate at best.

So again, I offer my thanks to the Choctaw Nation for the continued dedication you have shown concerning the educations of your young Native Americans, and may God bless you all in the new year.

Philip Matthew Wesley

Honor Guard to be commended

Dear Chief Pyle,

It is my pleasure to recommend that the members of the Choctaw Nation Honor Guard be commended for their outstanding performance. They perform a beautiful service as our deceased servicemen are laid to rest.

A funeral was held in Hugo recently for Dave Quentin. The Honor Guard, led by Herbert Jessie, did an outstanding and admirable job in inclement weather. Their devotion to duty was a very positive reflection on the Choctaw Nation. The entire ceremony, including presentation of the American flag, was done with great dignity worthy of the occasion.

> Hampton W. Anderson Major, USA, Retired McAlester, Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation plays role in education Dear Chief Pyle,

I am contacting you both out of respect and gratitude for the role the Choctaw Nation has had in my 12-year pursuit of the highest degree conferred by academia, the Doctor of Philosophy.

In 1995, a family death yielded documents proving what I had long believed was my lineage to original enrollee Effie Ellen Wyers. Not only am I thankful and proud of my Choctaw heritage for the life questions it has helped me answer and the culture I am now a part

Care packages are enjoyed

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank each and every one who helped in putting together the care packages that I have received from the ones in December to the most current ones in the month of January. The contents of each package were enjoyed by all in our work center – the calendar, wonderful snacks, soups and food. I have enjoyed reading all the issues of the BISHINIK that I have received. Your thoughts, cards and gifts have helped us all in getting through these months away from family and friends. Once again, thank you.

Michael P. Mugler, TSgt USAF

Reward for recovery of rings

Dear Editor,

An award is being offered for the return of a wedding ring and a mother's ring lost on January 27, 2005, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma – two rings with a lot of sentimental value. There is a \$50 reward to the person who returns them. Please call 580-847-2275 or turn the rings in to security at the hospital, leaving name and address. Thank you.

Seeking information

Dear Editor,

I am seeking information on Ruben Ellis Green, born in either January or February of 1933. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Elizabeth Green 7430 NW 10th #1B Oklahoma City, OK 73127

School supplies appreciated

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you so much for the school supplies for teachers and for all you do for the faculty and students at Heavener Schools. We appreciate your commitment to education.

> Mrs. Diane Lynch Heavener High School Library Media Specialist

Continuing education

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank the Department of Higher Education of the Choctaw Nation for my scholarships. It is such a tremendous help to me and my family. It makes continuing my education less of a financial burden. I am a junior at the University of Arkansas and hope to be accepted into vet school at OSU. Thank you again for my scholarships.

> Zack Hollowell Prairie Grove, Arkansas

Researching family lineage

Dear Editor,

I am trying to research my family lineage and would greatly appreciate any assistance I'm able to get. They are:

Great-great-great: Benjamin I. Fry and Lucinda Jane Elmore and their son, Louis William Fry, born November 17, 1859, married Julia A. Herrin in 1850. Louis and Julia had six children, Charles Marimen, Edward Jerome, James C., Wildie Bell, Mary Frances, Mertle Jane. I have their birth dates if needed.

Great-great: Edward Jerome, born April 19, 1874, married Sarah Ada Watson, born April 3, 1873; Charlie Marimen married twice, first to Rebecca Glaza and second, Ternry Sanders; Myrtle Jane married Dick George. Edward and Sarah had eight children, Bonnie Girtrude, William Montie, Bennie Lee, Marion Riggs, Homer Frank, Irene Bell, Anna Marie and Emmet Jack.

Grandmother: Irene Bell, born December 6, 1908.

Please send correspondence to P.O. Box 205, Buckholts, TX 76518. All will be answered.

Erin Adams Wister, Oklahoma

 Gregory E. Pyle
 Mike Bailey

 Chief
 The Official
 Assistant Chief

 Monthly Publication
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of, but also the fact that it has been instrumental to completion of my MS, and most recently PhD. The Choctaw Nation Office of Higher Education, the programs they offer directly, and the others they support or facilitate, have been actively involved in helping me locate and secure various academic scholarships, internships, fellowships, residencies and other support. Some have come directly through the Choctaw Nation, and others indirectly.

William "Alex" Brence Albuquerque, New Mexico

Graduate begins teaching career

Dear Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey,

I have just recently graduated from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, with a Bachelor of Science degree in education and received my first job teaching. I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the financial assistance that I received during college. This took a great burden off my family and me. I appreciate everything you have done for me.

> Courtney Mode Heavener, Oklahoma

Welcomes correspondence

Dear Chief Pyle,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your correspondence over the past year. All the information concerning the Choctaw Nation and tribal events was very welcome.

Please thank the people at the BISHINIK for all the newspapers I have received full of information, stories and other valuable articles.

> Rodger Kimbrell Lawton, Oklahoma

Grandchildren earn college degrees

Dear Editor,

On behalf of three of my grandchildren, Mark, Marcy and Anna Floyd, I want to thank the Choctaw Nation for the assistance enabling them to complete their college degrees. Two of them have advanced degrees. My Dad, Ponie Beal, was an original enrollee and taught his family to be proud of our Choctaw heritage. We are indeed proud and have passed this pride down to our children and grandchildren. Please extend our debt of gratitude to Chief Pyle and others who have made this educational assistance available. It is deeply appreciated.

Robbie Beal Williams Borger, Texas

Children receive Christmas gifts

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this moment to say Thank You to our Tribal Councilman Mike Amos on behalf of District 2. We want to thank you for the Christmas gifts our children received. This was real helpful and it was a joyful sight to see my children happy with the gifts. Also, we do not want to forget Mrs. Linda Jefferson. Knowing that we could not make it to the Christmas party, she held on to the gifts for us and the other people who missed the party. She always keeps us informed on what's going on or coming up. Keep up the good work, Mr. Amos and Mrs. Jefferson! Thank you.

Bethel, Pickens and Battiest communities

Looking to find WWII veteran Joe Spain Dear Editor,

Would like to find Pvt. Joe Spain, Native American from Oklahoma who served in the Army during World War II with Co. L, 7th Inf Regt, 3rd Division. Pvt. Spain served as a medic for my father's platoon. Joe never talked about the tribe he belonged to. My father only knows that Joe was from Oklahoma. My father has not seen Joe since he was captured by the Germans on September 15, 1944, in France. We do know that Joe did come home from the war.

My father would like to talk to Joe again. Joe probably thinks that my father is dead as he was wounded the day he was captured. The 3rd Division books all listed my father as missing in action. The truth of the matter is that my father was a prisoner of war for 228 days.

My father speaks very highly of how skilled Joe was at being a medic and working with the soldiers. My father remembers Joe and would once again like to have contact with him.

If anyone knows Joe Spain, probably in the age range of 70 to 80, please ask him to contact my father: Morris F. Snyder, 124 Seyler Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522, or e-mail pkescout@comcast.net.

Searching for information

Dear Editor,

I am searching for information on my grandfather and his family. His name was Douglas Gibson, born in Oklahoma, I.T., around 1889 or 1890. His mother and father's names were Nancy and Calvin Gibson. If anyone has any information and would like to share, it would be of great help to me in my research. My grandfather had a sister, Eliza Gibson Bell Lawrence. She had several children and lived in Garvin County, Oklahoma. There were several more children, Martha Gibson, Louisa Gibson and Johnnie Gibson. Please help if you can. Ollie Golden, HC83 Box 261, Antlers, OK 74523, e-mail ogolden@sbcglobal.net, phone 580-298-2115; or my mother, Delores Gibson Rosson, RR 1 Box 2690, Antlers, OK 74523.

Tribal member learns from BISHINIK

Dear Editor,

I met you at the San Diego meeting on February 5 and told you about reading the BISHINIK and gathering information about the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I.

The whole story is – you never know how much, we, as Choctaws learn about our heritage or the customs of our people just by reading the BISHINIK. From your stories I learned about the Trail of Tears, the first chief, the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, the Muskogean linguistic family of Indians, and about the Choctaw Code Talkers of the first world war.

From information I gathered about our Choctaw tribe, I developed a speech that I have given to California Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Surprisingly, not many people know about the Five Civilized Tribes or the Choctaws in particular. It has been a joy to me to share with them how well our tribe is doing under the leadership of Chief Gregory Pyle and how much the Choctaws help their own people.

Thanks so much for the BISHINIK. It is always a joy to receive and to read. Thanks for coming to California to share information with us.

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

The state of the Choctaw Nation is great

Proposed budget cuts from the Washington, D.C., level have raised questions from some tribal members about continuation of essential services. The Choctaw Nation can take great pride at having been able to pick up the cost of programs such as Adult Education when the federal government decided to stop the funding and also take pride at having been able to expand the scholarship program with an additional \$4 million per year. Success in the business arena has brought the tribe much closer to self-sufficiency through operations such as gaming casinos and travel plazas.

Federal dollars still pay for a large amount of services offered through the tribe, including much of our health services, agriculture and forestry programs, Upward Bound, membership offices and the mutual help homes constructed in the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The Tribal Council and I spend time conversing with Senators and Congresspeople on the importance of fulfilling the needs of tribal people through services and creation of jobs through new and expanded businesses. Several trips have been made to Washington already this year, once with leaders of the Cherokee, Creek, Seminole and Chickasaw tribes to present specific information to Congress on issues such as health care, Head Start, roads, and housing needs. It is very important that the men and women who serve as our Senators and United States Representatives understand the importance of continuing the services that improve the lives and futures of tribal people.

I was encouraged by the willingness to listen to tribal issues during my trips to our Nation's Capitol this year, although it was disappointing to see that partisan politics sometimes were slowing down the process of positive action. It is possible that continuing disagreements between party lines are a consequence of the negative politicking for the November 2004 campaigns. Choctaws should all be proud that our tribe has a history of constructive campaigns that show an interest in the wellbeing of Native American people and the communities where we reside.

The bottom line is, the tribe still needs a great deal of assistance from the federal government to continue to provide health care at the hospital and clinics, to provide treatment at substance abuse recovery centers, to provide a home away from home for students at Jones Academy and to fund many other services operated by the tribe.

The good news is that revenue is increasing from gaming operations, enabling the Choctaw Nation to enhance existing programs and



initiate some new programs. Your tribal government will continue to fight for all tribal programs and services, and also work to create more economic development and employment opportunities.

We can all take great pride in being a member of the Choctaw Nation.



The new educational facility to be built on the campus of Jones Academy.



It is a privilege to labor in the Gospel ministry among Native American people. I have prayed that these messages will be an encouragement to you.

What is religion and what is Christianity? You have probably heard someone talk about "religion" or use this term at some time



sinners who know they are lost, but religious people who, because of their religion, feel that they do not need a Savior.

Why do we have religions? Religion is man's effort to find relief from his fears, troubles, and from his conscience. If we would put this next to the message of salvation

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey ...

New school will provide great benefits

As we reported in the February issue of the Bishinik, the Choctaw Nation is taking a bold step forward in building a new educational facility at Jones Academy in Hartshorne, Oklahoma. As you see from the accompanying picture, the planned 65,000-square-foot school is impressive.

With its state-of-the-art design, it will house educational activities for students in kindergarten through eighth grade by providing ample classrooms, technology rooms, a full-sized gymnasium, and administrative offices.

The Chief and I are determined to provide the best program we can for the American Indian children at Jones Academy. For, as many of you know, without the proper education and preparation their chances of succeeding in life will be greatly reduced.

We want to help each of them develop his or her skills and self-worth so that each has a successful life. The opportu-



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

Here's my gift of:

I S

□ \$100	□ \$50	□ \$25	□ \$15	□ \$10	
Oth	er \$				
Name	e:				
Address:					
City:					

or another. You may have even heard someone use the expression "he's got religion."

There is a difference in religion and Christianity. Religion is not Christianity. A person can be religious and be lost as far as God's plan

of salvation is concerned. There may be some who are church members and still not be Christians.

Man is naturally or normally religious. Wherever man is found you will find some sort of religion. This is the reason why we have hundreds of religions in our world today, and they aren't decreasing, they are increasing.

But there is only one way of salvation. Salvation means to be saved or rescued from something. In our message and in our case today, we are talking about being rescued or saved from the penalty of sin, which is eternal death. This is separation from God forever in a place prepared for the devil and his followers. This place is called hell. Hell is an eternal torment of fire. There is only one Bible way of salvation and that is by personal faith in the Person of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said in the Gospel of John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

There can be no Christianity without Jesus Christ. Religion is not Christianity and Christianity is not a religion. Christianity is life. It is far more than religion, it is living.

What is religion then? Religion teaches salvation by works, ordinances, rituals, self-sacrifice. Christianity teaches salvation by faith, without works, and through the sacrifice of another. Paul the Apostle, before his conversion on the Damascus road, was a deeply sincere and fanatically religious man, but he was not saved. He had religion, but persecuted Christ and the Christian church. He testified before Agrippa in Acts 26:4-5:

"My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee."

Paul had religion, more religion than anyone else but he was not saved. All through the Bible we read about Egyptians, Babylonions, Greeks, Romans – they all had religion! The multitudes of Jesus' day had religion, but did not know the Gospel. We might even add that there are probably millions today, even in so-called Christian lands, who have religion, but no salvation.

Someone has said, "Christ came to save man from two things – sin and religion – and this is true. The hardest work for the Christian is not to save by faith, which results in rest, peace, and assurance, they would have nothing in common.

Religion promotes doubt, faith in Christ produces assurance and peace. Ask a man who has only religion, "Are you saved?" and he will

hesitate and stammer and answer, "I hope so, I am trying to be," but ask a man who is soundly saved by faith in Jesus Christ, and he will immediately answer, "Yes, thank God, I am saved."

Probably there is someone who would think that to know for a surety a person is a born-again Christian, a child of God is to show pride. Do you know why a person would think this? That person would say or think this: that to know for a surety you are going to heaven is to boast of one's own good works. No, my friend, a person that knows for a surety that he is a born-again, blood-washed child of God is one who has put his trust in the finished work of Christ and believes that Jesus alone can save and has saved.

There are only two gospels in the world, the gospel of works, "religion," and the gospel of faith, "Christianity." God's Word, the Bible, says salvation is done, and you receive this free gift by faith. Satan says salvation is by religion. It is always a trick of Satan to have men be religious and yet without salvation. I know there are some who would think that if we preach that salvation is by faith alone, then we won't have any workers in the church. Let me tell you, when you have people that have trusted Jesus Christ plus nothing else, that person will know for a surety that salvation is only of the Lord, and will if he is spirit-filled, burn himself out telling others what Jesus Christ has done for him in his life. If a person doesn't know what Christ can do then he has no message. He lives only a work associated with hollow formalism and ceremonialism.

Is your religion sufficient? Are you satisfied with it? Does it give you peace and joy? If you have Jesus Christ, He will give you all these wholly apart from your own good works.

If you know what He has done for you, He can do this for others. Why don't you do as Jesus told the man of Gadara who was demon-possessed then converted in Mark 5:19, "... Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, ..."

Today, you can become a new person by trusting Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior.

Pray for our Native American people. Pray for America, our Choctaw Nation, Chief Gregory Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and the members of the Tribal Council as they lead our Nation. nities provided by this educational facility will help us accomplish that goal.

Our attention is now turned toward raising the money necessary to build this wonderful new facility. We must generate over 9 million dollars to build the school, in addition to providing for its annual operating expenses. The Choctaw Nation, employees, and individuals nationwide are joining in this effort.

Please, won't you join with us to provide this opportunity for our American Indian children? The benefits they derive from the program will last for generations. Take a moment to fill out the form at right or place a call to 1-888-932-9199 and make a contribution using a credit card.

Your tax deductible gift will mean a great deal to the children who attend Jones Academy.

I thank you for sharing in this important endeavor.

tate:	Zip:
hone	Number:
	I've enclosed my check made payable to Jones Academy Foundation.
	I prefer to charge my gift: MasterCard VISA
Ν	ame on credit card:
С	ard Number:
Е	xpiration Date:
S	ignature:
	to make a credit card donation.
	Please return this form along with your gift to: Jones Academy Foundation c/o Joy Culbreath, Education Department P O Drawer 1210 Durant, OK 74702-1210
Yo	ur contribution is greatly appreciated!
For	more information on how you can help, please contact Joy Culbreath, Executive Director of Education Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma 1-800-522-6170 ext 2308

Your Donation is Tax Deductible –

Trail of C Tears Walk	TRAIL OF TEARS T–SHIRT – ORDER FORM – T-shirts are black. Sizes available are: Children – (2-4). (6-8), (10-12), and (14-16) Adults – Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large, and XXX-Large All T-shirts are \$10 each Caps – \$10 each			
Item	Size	Quantity	Total Price	
T-shirt – \$10 _ 				
Cap – \$10				
Price includes postage and handling. Limited supply of Children and XXX-Large sizes. To order, send payment (NO PERSONAL CHECKS) with completed form to: Trail of Tears Walk T-shirt P.O. Drawer 1210 • Durant, OK 74702-1210 For more information, call Sue Folsom at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2134.				

Healthy Living = Longer Life

We have the power TO PREVENT DIABETES

American Indians and Alaskan Natives have the power to prevent type 2 diabetes. Millions of Americans are at high risk for diabetes, a serious and costly disease that has reached epidemic proportions in the past ten years. The exciting news: Diabetes can be prevented.

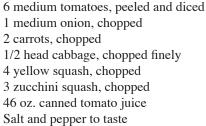
Here are 7 powerful steps you can take to get started today:

- Move More Get up, get out, and get moving
- Fat Healthy Focus on eating less and making healthy food choices.
- Take Off Some Weight Once you start eating less and moving more, you will lose weight.
- Set Goals You Can Meet Start by making small changes.
- Record Your Progress Write down all the things you eat and drink and the number of minutes you are active.
- Get Help You don't have to prevent diabetes alone. Ask your family and friends to help you out.
- Keep At It Making even small changes is hard in the beginning. Try adding one new change a week. If you get off track, start again and keep at it.

If you need further assistance contact Raina Spears, Dietitian, Diabetes Wellness Center, 1-800-349-7026.



CHICKEN STEW 1 whole chicken, skinned



Cut up chicken, leave bone in. Trim off all visible fat. Put in heavy pot. Add onion, carrots, cabbage, and enough water to cover. Cook until vegetables are very tender. Add tomatoes, yellow squash and zucchini. Cook for another 15 minutes or until tender. Reduce heat to medium. Add canned tomato juice. Cook additional 10 minutes. Salt and pepper to taste. Makes approx. 12 cups. Serving size: 1 cup.

Nutrition facts per serving (1 cup) – Calories 138; total fat 4g; cholesterol 39mg; sodium 458mg; carbohydrate 11g; protein 15g; dietary fiber 3g.

Recipe provided by Choctaw Nation Better Health Cookbook, submitted by Peggy LaFever, Sulphur. Cookbooks are available from DWC community educators and dietitians, 1-800-349-7026.

Ways to Prevent Cancer from the Harvard Center for Cancer Prevention

of all cancers can be prevented by things you can do. Take control of your health, and improve the health of your family, by following these seven recommendations. Doing so will help you and your family lower risk not only for cancer but also heart disease, stroke, and diabetes.



Maintain a healthy weight

Maintaining a healthy weight lowers the risk of cancers of the colon, rectum, uterus, and breast.

Tips for maintaining a healthy weight:

- Be physically active.
- Balance the amount of food you eat with the amount of energy you use.
- your kids sit around the house.
- Encourage healthy snacking

Get at least 30 minutes of physical activity every day

Tips for being physically active:

• A lot of things count as physical activity, maybe even your job if you are active at work. Try walking, jogging or dancing – whatever you enjoy!

Tips for quitting smoking:

not impossible. Over 1,000

for help.

for employees.

• Keep trying! Quitting is tough but

• Talk to a health care professional

• Talk to the human resources office

where you work. Your employer

may offer quit-smoking programs

Americans quit for good every day.

Tips for parents and grandparents: • Limit the amount of time

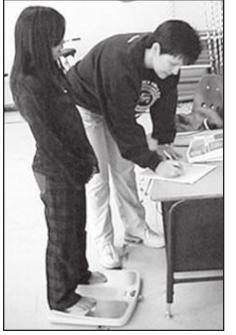
- on fruits and vegetables.

- Do physically active things with your kids on a regular basis, beginning
- when they are very young. • Encourage kids to play outside (when safe) and participate in organized sports or other physical activities like dancing.



Battiest third-graders and REACH staff are pictured with the "Omniball," used as a fun tool for increasing physical activity.

REACH 2010 staff provides 3rd-grade **Wellness Program** In an ongoing ef-



fort to battle childhood obesity the Choctaw Nation REACH 2010 staff has targeted three schools to provide an ongoing wellness program. The schools, Bennington, Battiest, and Rattan, are visited on a monthly basis by staff Teresa Frederick and Doris Ward.

REACH 2010, a CDC funded grant program focusing on increasing physical activity and awareness, provides various items to the schools promoting different types of physical activity. The

REACH staff member Teresa Frederick checks a Battiest student's Body Mass Index (BMI).

students also receive individual items throughout the school year.

During the program the students are taught the "5 Components of Physical Fitness" - Cardiovascular Endurance, Muscular Strength, Muscular Endurance, Flexibility, and Body Fat Percent. Each month the staff discusses a different component and plays games, gives demonstrations or provides hands-on learning related to the component being discussed. Overall wellness, good eating habits, etc., are also touched on during the program. The kids were given a pre-test and will be retested for knowledge at the end of the program. The children's BMI (Body Mass Index) is measured and letters sent home explaining the results. A nutrition/obesity education day is planned for the month of April. Doris Ward, REACH 2010 staff, states, "We really enjoy these students and hope to be teaching them information to help them lead a healthy life." For more information contact the REACH 2010 department at 1-800-349-7026, ext. 6044 or 6958.

Being physically active

lowers the risk of colon can-

cer and may lower the risk

Tips for parents and grandparents:



Don't smoke

of breast cancer.

Tobacco use (including cigarettes, pipes, cigars, and chewing tobacco) is linked to cancers of the lung, throat, pancreas, kidney, bladder, cervix, prostate, colon, and rectum.



Eat a healthy diet

A healthy diet lowers the risk of cancers of the prostate, breast, lung, colon, rectum, stomach, and pancreas.



Drink less than one alcoholic drink a day

parties.

One drink is a glass of wine, a bottle of beer, or a shot of hard liquor. Limiting alcohol lowers the risk of cancers of the breast, colon, rectum, mouth, throat, and esophagus.



Protect yourself from the sun

Sunlight is linked to skin cancer.

Tips for protecting yourself from the sun:

- Stay out of direct sunlight 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (peak burning hours)
- Use hats, long-sleeve shirts, and SPF 15 sunscreens or higher.
- Avoid getting sunburned.
- Do not use sun lamps or tanning booths.

Tips for parents and grandparents:

- Try to quit as soon as possible. If you smoke, your kids will also be more likely to smoke.
- Don't smoke in the house or car. If kids breathe in your smoke, they may have a higher risk of breathing problems and lung cancer.
- When appropriate, talk to your kids about the dangers of smoking and chewing tobacco. A health care professional or school counselor can help.

Tips for parents and grandparents:

- Have a bowl of fruit out all the time for kids to take snacks from.
- When eating at fast food restaurants, encourage kids to choose broiled chicken sandwiches rather than burgers.
- wheat bread.

The Choctaw Nation Preventive Health Core Capacity Program

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is taking the lead in developing a culturally competent health promotion and disease intervention strategy to address cardiovascular diseases, one of the nation's leading health priority areas.

The project consists of enhancing scientific capacity in epidemiology, coalition building, and a community needs assessment. This will include service area analysis, patient survey analysis, community characteristics for the development of Community Capacity Plans. These plans will help facilitate community involvement, networking and partnership development to address cardiovascular disease prevention and education.

Approximately 2,000 surveys have been collected in the last six months. According to the first analysis of almost 700 surveys, the communities listed a desire for education pertaining to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, nutrition, and the benefits of physical activity. Walking tracks and exercise equipment were also shown to be a need in the communities. But, according to the survey the "number one" request was to educate the people of the Choctaw Nation concerning substance abuse. As a result of this survey, the Core Capacity Program is gathering information that will help establish the link between Substance Abuse and CVD.

In addition to distributing preventive health literature to the communities at health fairs and coalition meetings, the Core Capacity Program hosts evening "Drug Awareness" events and visits local schools to promote preventive health and to raise awareness of the danger of substance abuse on the heart.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) invited the Core Capacity Program to present their findings as a "New and Innovative Approach to Eliminate Health Disparities" at the National CDC Fall Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 25, 2004, through October 27, 2004.

The Core Capacity office is located at 318 S. Third St. in McAlester, Oklahoma. Members of the Core Capacity Program are Janeen Gray, program manager; Joe Bray, statistician, and Jon Hotubbee, community coordinator. For information please contact them at 918-426-5700 or sjgray@choctawnationhealth. com.

Tips for parents and grandparents:

- Make sure kids are properly protected from the sun with hats, long-sleeve shirts, and SPF 15 sunscreens or higher. Serious skin cancer is caused by sunburns in childhood.
- Be an example for your kids to follow.

Screening tests can catch cancer early, when it is most treatable. In some cases, a test can even help prevent cancer from developing in the first place. Talk to a health care professional about tests for colon and rectal cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer. For more information: www.hsph. harvard.edu/cancer. To estimate your cancer risk: www.yourcancerrisk.harvard.edu. © Presidents and Fellows of Harvard College 2000

Eat vegetables as a snack. • Choose chicken, fish, or beans instead of red meat. The less red

meat, the better. • Choose foods like pasta, brown rice,

· Choose non-alcoholic beverages,

· Talk to a health care professional

if you have trouble limiting alochol.

· Avoid occasions centered

around alcohol.

like juices and sodas, at meals and

Tips for eating a healthy diet:

• Make fruits and vegetables part of every meal. Put fruit on your cereal.

Tips for drinking less alcohol: Tips for parents and grandparents:

- Avoid making alcohol an essential part of family gatherings.
- When appropriate, discuss the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse with kids. A health care professional or school counselor can help.

• Make sandwiches using whole

and whole wheat bread.

Native Americans invited to Job Readiness Seminar in Durant

April 19-21 Choctaw Nation Tribal Headquarters Durant, Oklahoma

Choctaw Nation Projects with Industry (PWI) Program will be offering a Job Readiness Seminar April 19-21 at the Choctaw Nation Tribal Headquarters in Durant, Oklahoma. The seminar will begin at 10 a.m. and concludes at 3:30 p.m. on both days. All Native Americans are invited to participate in the class on preparing to enter the workforce field. The training includes, but is not limited to, identifying job/career choices, identifying strengths/weaknesses as an employee, how to locate job sites, how to complete job applications, job interview techniques, completion of a resume, and job-keeping characteristics. A certificate of achievement will be given to all consumers who complete the class.

PWI can assist many businesses who are looking for capable, dependable and prescreened employees. If a business agrees to hire an individual through this program, the program will be able to reimburse for on-the-job training at 100% of the employee salary. The business is encouraged to retain the individual in permanent employment at the end of the training period. Businesses can also take advantage of federal tax credits of up to \$4,000 per employee for employing Native Americans with a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB).

Disabled Native Americans who have a CDIB and are look-

ing for employment are urged to take advantage of this program. Individuals found eligible can benefit from several services offered such as on-the-job training, job placement, job searches, counseling and guidance, and job readiness classes. This program can assist native individuals with disabilities such as diabetes mellitus, alcohol abuse/ dependency, orthopedic, mental health, high blood pressure and many more which are too numerous to mention. Applicants must reside in the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation.

Further information on services is available through the Projects with Industry Program. Contact Randy Hammons, Director, or Bucky Ensey, Counselor, at 580-326-7758 or 877-285-6893.

The program is funded through the U.S. Department of Special Education and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Project SPIT Pursuing goal of smoke-free restaurants and schools

Two major issues that Project Spit (Stop, Prevent, Intervene Tobacco use) is currently working on are smoke-free restaurants and a 24/7 policy for schools.

Smoke-Free Restaurants

Did you know that 34% of the 35 restaurants in Choctaw County and 47% of the 21 restaurants in Pushmataha County have become smoke-free facilities? To those 24 restaurant owners, thank you!

Did you know by Oklahoma law on March 1, 2006, all restaurant facilities in the state must be smoke-free or provide their patrons with a special vented room for smoking?

Project SPIT has asked all 56 restaurants in both Choctaw and Pushmataha Counties to consider becoming smoke-free facilities before the law becomes effective.

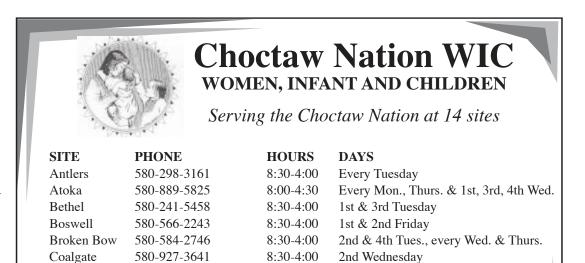
24/7 Policy

Did you know that every day, four teenagers begin a lifetime smoking habit in the State of Oklahoma! Preventing youth from beginning any tobacco use starts with creating and maintaining a tobacco-free atmosphere throughout the school system and continues with classroom education. Did you know that only 21% of the 14 school districts in Choctaw and Pushmataha counties have a 24/7 smoking policy? The 24/7 policy states that your school will adhere to the following guidelines: Prohibits the use of all tobacco products by staff, contractors, patrons, and visitors while on school property, including district vehicles and school sponsored events 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If patrons and visitors refuse to abstain from using tobacco, they will be asked to leave the property.

Project SPIT, partnering with SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco), has asked each superintendent to examine his/her written smoking policy and determine if his/her school's current policy is strong enough to prevent any and all potential problems.

Why do we care? Secondhand smoke is a known cause of cancer in humans and also causes heart disease and stroke. Passive smoking is estimated to cause more than 700 deaths in Oklahoma among nonsmokers each year. That is why we care – secondhand smoke is a killer!

Want to make a difference? Become a team member of Project SPIT by contacting Jerry Speck at 580-298-6624.



VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

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

A Vocational Rehabilitation representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday thru Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office and at the Rubin White Clinic in Poteau.

March is Parenting Awareness Month

Parenting Awareness Month celebrates people raising children and promotes year-round parenting education and resources as well as encouraging a broader understanding and acknowledgement of the importance of effective parenting. Emphasis is placed in nurturing children to become healthy, caring, contributing citizens.

Good parenting includes:

• Showing children love, concern, and respect at all times.

Head Start begins spring recruiting

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

• Giving children a safe place to live and play.

• Helping children express all their feelings appropriately and listening to what they say.

• Giving children appropriate choices whenever possible.

• Having reasonable rules that are understood by all.

• Being responsible and teaching children to be responsible.

- Spending time with children.
- Setting an example by what we say and do.Working with our schools and communities

to make them better for children.

• Asking for help when we need it. Taken from "Be Their Hero from Age Zero." for over-income families as well.

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

For more information and to obtain an application, contact the Choctaw Nation Head Start Centers in Antlers, Atoka, Bennington, Bethel, Broken Bow, Coalgate, Durant, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, Stigler, Wilburton and Wright City. You may also contact the Durant Administration office at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2373.

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
Smithville	580-244-3289	8:30-3:45	2nd Thursday every month
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

WIC Help your child handle a food allergy and eat healthfully

About one out of 20 children is allergic to at least one food. There's good news! Except for peanuts and tree nuts, most children outgrow food allergies. Until then, here's what you can do:

GET HELP. You can't be an instant expert. Your health care provider can help.

AVOID OFFERING PROBLEM FOODS! Be aware: foods that cause allergies can be ingredients in mixed foods.

READ THE INGREDIENT LIST ON FOOD LABELS. That's how to tell if a packaged food has the problem ingredient.

TELL ALL CAREGIVERS. Bring a note

from your child's health care provider to the day care center. Tell babysitters, grandparents, other relatives and friends! Explain what foods to avoid, and why.

ORDER CAREFULLY FOR YOUR CHILD WHEN YOU EAT OUT. Ask about the ingredients.

TAKE FOOD FROM HOME. If you're not sure about food at day care, restaurant, or some-one's home, pack food for your child.

ROLE-PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD. Practice what to do when someone who does not know about the food allergy offers food. "Nibbles for Health, USDA"

A Stigler 2 1 9-2 Ρ Poteau A-L R 9-2 3 Bethel 7 8 9 4 Poteau 5 6 9-10:30 M-Z 9-2 Smithville 12-2 Broken 11 10 12 13 15 16 14 Bow 12-2 Idabel Talihina 9-11 9-12 23 17 18 21 22 19 20 2 0 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 0 5 Holiday Closed Closed Closed

The Food Distribution Program workers will take a 30-minute lunch break from 11:30 to 12 noon. Please bring boxes with you to pick up your commodities. If you cannot pick up commodities when you are scheduled, please notify the Food Distribution Office at 800-522-6170 so they can tell you where you need to go.

ANTLERS: Choctaw Community Center, 306 S.W. "O" St. **BETHEL:** Choctaw Community Building.

BROKEN BOW: Choctaw Family Investment Center.

DURANT: Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr.

IDABEL: Choctaw Village Shopping Center.

McALESTER: Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 1212 S. Main.

POTEAU: Choctaw Family

Investment Center.

SMITHVILLE: Big Lick Church.

STIGLER: Choctaw Community Building.

TALIHINA: Boys & Girls Club.

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

To the youth of the Nation ...

Dealing with peer pressure

By Gail Cantrell

Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

What do you think of when you hear the words "Peer Pressure?" You may think of teenagers who make bad decisions based on the encouragement of their friends. Research shows that as children grow and move into early adolescence they become more and more involved with their peers. Some teens feel that adults don't quite understand the issues they face every day. They begin to question adult standards and the need for parental guidance, so they turn to friends for advice who are in the same position themselves.

Many teens desire to fit in or be accepted by their peers and can lead to the decision on the type of clothes they like, the way they behave, talk, hairstyle, and yes, the choice to do drugs or alcohol. The truth is that peer pressure isn't always negative, it can be positive, too. Such as the pressure to make good grades, join a fun organization, or just to be a better person. Peer pressure has been said to be the greatest issue among teens today. **A few tips for dealing**

with peer pressure

- Do not take peer pressure lightly
- Help your child develop a high self-esteem, confidence, a sense of self-worth, and to feel needed and loved by her friends and family
- You should talk with your child if you think they are being negatively influenced by peers
- Establish and maintain good communication with your child

MENTORS NEEDED

We are looking for responsible guys and girls who are willing to come out and spend one hour a day and one day a week with a kid. If you are interested please call Janel James at 580-584-3636 for more information or you can come by the McCurtain County Boys and Girls Club and pick up an application.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

People You Know



Happy birthday to Charles siblings

Celebrating birthdays are siblings Manuel Charles who turned 20 on January 27; Jeannette Charles who turned sweet 16 on February 7, and Tasha Charles who will turn 18 on March 27. They are the children of Janet Hudson of Danville, Arkansas, and the grandchildren of the late Rosie (Watson) Milam of Watson, Oklahoma.

Good wishes

Wishing everyone the best in this new year are David, Austin and Abby James. They are the children of Scott and Diana James of Hudson, Kansas. Grandparents are Tom and Charlotte James of Bennington, Oklahoma, and Kenneth and Deanna Brian of Hardin, Montana. They have an aunt. Tommie James of Lane, Oklahoma.

Look who's one!

Happy first birthday to Olivia Davenport. Olivia was born October 12, 2003. She is the daughter of Bucky and Debbie Davenport of Soper, Oklahoma. Proud grandparents are Rebekah and Oscar Moran of Hugo, Oklahoma, Mike and Eunice Conley of Hugo, and Buck and Jane Davenport of Soper.

Happy first birthday

Keaton Jackson would like to wish his baby brother, Jace Hunter, a very happy first birthday on January 20. Parents are Rodney and Amy Medders-Hunter of Whitesboro, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Barbara and Jerry Hunter of Whitesboro and John and Norma Medders of Falfa, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Vera Medders of Falfa, Jr. and Lois Lawson of Albion, Oklahoma, and Dee Tidwell of Honobia, Oklahoma.

Koda turns one

Keeley Nicole would like to wish her baby brother, Koda Michael, a happy first birthday on December 30. Grandma made everyone a Koda Bear cake. Koda's parents are Dustin and Tasha Hudson of Smithville, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Fred and Dimple Wickson of Hugo, Oklahoma, and Corrine Hudson of Smithville. Koda and Keeley would also like to wish a happy birthday to their grandparents, Fred on January 2 and Dimple on December 15; uncles, Danny in December, Cordell on December 27, and E.B. on December 25; Aunt Meg on December 28, and their cousins, Alaina on December 18, Dexter on December 24, and Kevin on December 4.





Advisory Program. Dayla is the daughter of Mike and Vicky Amos and the granddaughter of Marylin Colbert and the late

Dayla turns 15

Nick Colbert of Broken Bow and Bill and Louise Amos of Garvin, Oklahoma. Happy birthday, Big Sis, from Nikki and Andrew!

Look who's turning nine

Kambri Brooke Cripps of Talihina, Oklahoma, turned nine on February 9. She is the daughter of Kimberly Cripps of Talihina and the late Donald Cripps. Kambri loves playing basketball and riding her bike. Her grandparents are John and Genny Bull of Buffalo Valley and Raymond

Dayla Amos will turn 15 years old

on March 6. Dayla attends Broken Bow

High School and plays softball. She par-

ticipates with the Choctaw Nation Youth

and Mary Cripps of Wister. We would like to wish her a very happy birthday. She would also like to wish her Aunt Rachel and Uncle Jeremy Bull of Buffalo Valley a happy second anniversary on February 8. Happy anniversary from Kim, Shyla and Kambri Cripps.

Homecoming Queen

Kambri Cripps of Talihina, Oklahoma, would like to congratulate her sister, Shyla Cripps, on becoming the 2004-05 Jr. High Football Homecoming Queen at Talihina. Shyla is the daughter of Kimberly Cripps of Talihina and the late Donald Cripps of Wister. She is a Jr. High Cheerleader. She enjoys playing on the basketball team, spending time on the phone with her friends and shopping. Her grandparents

are John and Genny Bull of Buffalo Valley and Raymond and Mary Cripps of Wister. Congratulations, Shy-shy.

Look who's two!

Mackenzie Dorman will be celebrating her second birthday on February 18. She is the daughter of Randy and Lisa Dorman and has one big sister, Mikala, all of Stratford, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Melvin Dorman of Wynnewood, Oklahoma, Susie Jones of Wynnewood, and Mary Lemons of Stratford. All of Mackenzie's family wish her a very happy birthday.

Chloe celebrates second

Chloe Elizabeth Nicole James celebrated her second birthday on February 22. Chloe is the daughter of Ryan James and Miranda Tomlinson. Proud grandparents are Ron and Diane James and Allen and Tonia Tomlinson. Great-grandparents are Walt and Glenda Smith. All are of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Wishing her a happy

birthday are her Mom, Dad, MeMaw, PePaw, two Papas, NaNa, Grandma, Uncles Josh, Jordy, Teddy, Travis, Arnold and Henry, Aunts Rose, Trina, Karen, Christie and Auntie Katherine; cousins Tyler, Jeremy, Cody, Kevin, LaDonna, Sarah, KeSean, Brandon and Deanne.

"Most Beautiful"

Jaylan Olivia Shian Williams is two years

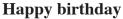


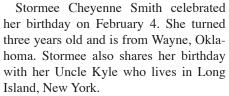
90 years young

A birthday celebration was held January 15 at Christ United Methodist Church in Claremore, Oklahoma, for Dora B. Tims who turned 90 years old on the 16th of January. Her two daughters, family members, including her 93-year-old sister, Julia Tims, and friends attended the special event. Mementos and gifts were given as well as singing of some Choctaw hymns.

Kaleb turns one

Kaleb Ray Colbert was born December 11, 2003. His first birthday was celebrated with his family at his Great-Grandma Mary J. Jefferson's house. Kaleb is the son of Stacy Colbert of Idabel, Oklahoma. He is the grandson of Theresa Colbert and Garry Colbert of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Kaleb would also like to wish his cousin, Logan Lewis, a happy birthday. He turned five on December 4.





Celebrating the birthday with Stormee were her parents, Dean and Tina Smith of Wayne; a brother, Joe, of Purcell, Okla-

homa; and sister and nephew, Christina and Brayden, of Norman, Oklahoma.

Brothers celebrate birthdays

We would like to wish brothers Zachary Shane and Dakota Ryan a happy birthday. Zachary turned two on March 6 and Dakota will turn six on March 25. Wishing them a very happy birthday are Mom, Nanny Janice, PawPaw Leonard, Uncles Rusty and Dusty, Aunt Misty, Grammy, Uncle Johnny, Aunt Gail Percell, their cousin, Brandon, and friend, Scotty Crunk.

Choctaw cousins celebrate 13th

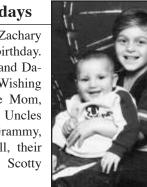
Tiffany Geimausaddle, Choctaw/Kiowa of Oklahoma City, and Alisha Pewewardy, Choctaw/Comanche of Elgin, Oklahoma, celebrated

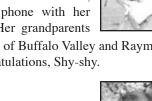


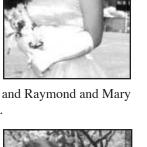
their 13th birthdays in February. Tiffany's parents are Vickie Samuels of Oklahoma City and Gerald Geimausaddle of Oklahoma City. Grandparents are Lula Jean Williams of El Reno, Oklahoma, Julius Samuels of Tacoma, Washington, Leona Geimausaddle and the late Stan Geimausaddle of Carnegie, Oklahoma. Late great-grandparents are Tom and Carrie Williams. Alisha's parents are Tony Wallace of Oklahoma City and Pat Pewewardy of Elgin. Grandparents are Rozella Williams of Oklahoma City and the late James Williams

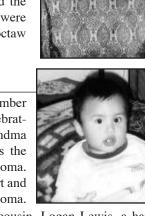


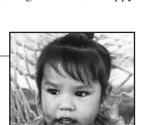


















Khayean is three

Khayean De'An Byington celebrated her third birthday on October 10 with a Dora the Explorer party. Her brother, Justin, and big sister, Karri, helped her celebrate as well as her Nanny, Grandma, aunts, cousins, friends, and Godparents, Barry and Tracie Tonihka. She is the daughter of Buck and Sandra Byington of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Grandparents are the late Osbine and Maecian Bond

of Bethel, Oklahoma, and the late Roston and Helen Byington of Idabel, Oklahoma. Great-grandmother is Ella Austin of Idabel.

Happy eighth birthday

Khayean and Karri would like to wish Justin B. a happy eighth birthday. Jason had a Yu-gi-oh party with his friends, aunts, Grandma and Nanny. He is the son of Buck and Sandra Byington of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Grandparents are the late Osbine and Maecean Bond of Bethel, Oklahoma, the late Roston and Helen Byington of Idabel, Oklahoma. Great-grandmother is Ella Austin of Idabel.

Look who's four

Brianna Elaine Spaulding turned four on February 21. Wishing her a great fourth birthday are her mommy, Angie; daddy, Jason; little brother, Jason Jr.; Papa Dennis of Colorado; grandma and grandpa, John and Glenda; aunt, Jessica; uncles, John Jr., Dylan and Chris of Redland, Oklahoma, and great-nanny Olamae

of Atoka, and numerous aunts and uncles. She is the great-granddaughter of Coleman Felihkatubbe of California.

Wow! Look who turned one

Jason Dennis Spaulding Jr. turned one year old on January 19. His mommy, Angie; daddy, Jason; big sister, Brianna; Papa Dennis of Colorado; Grandma Glenda; Grandpa John; Aunt Jessica; uncles, John Jr., Dylan and Chris of Redland, Oklahoma, and Great-Grandma of Atoka, Oklahoma, would all like to wish him a

wonderful belated birthday and many more to come. He is the greatgrandson of the late Coleman Felihkatubbe of California.

old and a proud member of the Choctaw Nation. She was recently entered in a beauty pageant in Durant, Oklahoma, where she won overall most beautiful in the toddler miss category. Jaylan received two trophies, a gold medal, and her beauty entry fee paid to the state finals which were held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Jaylan placed in the top ten most

beautiful at the state finals. She received a trophy and her beauty entry fee paid to the nationals which will be held in Florida. Good luck to Jaylan in her pageant and lots more pageants to come.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Ashleigh Renea Ruthstrom who turned one on January 23 and to Taylor RhiAnn Foster who turned four on January 29. Ashleigh's parents are Jason and

Heather Ruthstrom of Duncan, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Joyce Scruggs of Marlow, Oklahoma, and John and Cathey Ruthstrom of Duncan. Great-grandparents are Curtis and Peggy Scruggs of Rush Springs, Oklahoma, and the Ruthstroms of Houston, Texas. Tay-

lor is the daughter of James and Melissa Foster of Rush Springs. Grandparents are Bobby and Shannon Foster of Rush Springs and Anthony and Geraldine Young of Sterling, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Curtis and Peggy Scruggs of Rush Springs and Granma Hale of Sterling.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Michael Aaron on March 20. Michael, a CHR driver, is hanging up his keys, retiring from the job on March 18. Happy birthday and good luck, Michael.

Happy birthday

Carolyn Sue May-Anders celebrated the big day February 9. Have a great day! You're the greatest.

Bokoshe is a teenager

Happy birthday to Bokoshe Wade. He turned 13 years old on February 26. Proud parents are Kathy and Billy Wade of Battiest, Oklahoma.



of Oklahoma City. Great-grandparents are the late Tom and Carrie Williams.

Sisters are forever

Billie Sue Paskin would like to say happy birthday to her sisters, Terry Lynn Williams on February 19 and Donna Jean Pierce on February 27. All are of Boswell, Oklahoma.

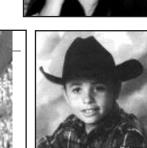


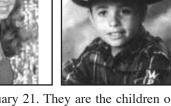
Rhiannon is turning 17

Herman and Carla Weaver would like to wish a happy birthday to their daughter, Rhiannon. She turns 17 on March 21.

Happy birthday

Lap and Joyce Tran would like to wish their grandbabies a happy birthday. Hailey Brown will turn 14 on March 15 and her brother,





Corey Brown, turned 12 on February 21. They are the children of Mike Brown of Durant, Oklahoma, and Jimmy and Ann Minyard of Bennington, Oklahoma. They are also wished a happy birthday from their brother, Wade Minyard; their Aunt Cindy, Uncle Mitchell, Uncle Junior and cousin, Ethan.

Look who's one!

This beautiful little girl turned one year old on January 26. She is Savannah Jo Whitley, the daughter of Belinda and Steve Whitley of Greenville, Texas. Best wishes and happy birthday to the little angel.

Happy fifth birthday

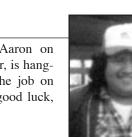
Lakota and Dravyn Chitto would like to wish their sister, Jalyne Rayne Chitto, a happy fifth birthday on January 2. Aunt Diandra and cousin Nathanial Lufkin also send their wishes for a happy day. Jalyne is in Head Start at Glenwood Elementary in Ada, Oklahoma. She enjoys being



outside and jumping on the trampoline with her sister, brother and cousin. Jalyne is the daughter of Elena Lufkin and John Chitto of Ada and the granddaughter of Eula Lufkin and the late Curtis Lufkin of Ada and Jerry Chitto and Audrey Comby of Philadelphia, Mississippi. Great-grandparents are the late Willie and Mary Going of Broken Bow, Oklahoma.





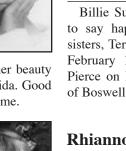


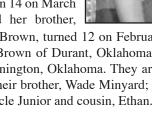


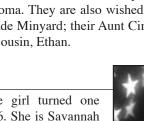












Original enrollee turns 100

Original Choctaw enrollee Lorennie (Berry) Bateman celebrated her 100th birthday on July 30, 1904. The oldest of five children, Lorennie moved to Norman, Oklahoma, when she was very young. She graduated from high school in 1923 and from OU in 1927. In 1930, she went to Columbia University in New York City to get her master's



degree in Home Economics. She began teaching home ec in 1936 at Oklahoma Baptist University and in 1954 received a Distinguished Service Award from the National Home Ec Demonstration Agents.

Rennie became the head home advisor for Platt County, State of Illinois, retiring in the early 1960s.

She married Paul Bateman on June 8, 1968 at the age of 64 and has lived in Champaign, Illinois, ever since.

Correspondence may be sent to her at Rennie Bateman, Clark Lindsey Village, Rm 210, 101 West Windsor, Urbana, IL 61802.

Happy ninth birthday

Cortland Lewis Chiles celebrated his ninth birthday on February 25. Cortland is the son of Marvin and Tracy Chiles of Ada, Oklahoma. He is a third-grader at Homer Elementary in Ada. Cortland has been on the Homer Honor Roll for two years and on the Chickasaw Nation Governor's Honor Roll. He enjoys fishing,



hunting, history and swimming. Grandparents are Alice (Finley) Vincent of Shawnee, Oklahoma, the late Rev. E.L. Vincent Sr. and Alfonzo "Babe" and Queen Esther Chiles of Eufaula, Oklahoma. Cortland is the great-grandson of original enrollee Andrew Finley and the great-great-grandson of original enrollee Joe Finley.

Brandon turns one

Brandon Ty Labor turned one year old on February 18. Happy birthday from Pawpaw Hardy, Granni Tammie, Uncle Tyler, Mom and Dad.

Happy birthday, Bubba

We would like to wish Melton Lee Aaron a very happy birthday. He turned four on February 28. Proud parents are Leroy and Melissa Aaron of Wilburton. Grandparents are Olen and Maude Durant of Sobol and Daisy Aaron and the late Leroy M. Aaron of Wilburton.

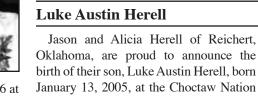
Happy anniversary

The family of Olen and Maude Durant of Sobol, Oklahoma, would like to wish them a happy anniversary on January 19. They have been married for 44 years and counting!

We would also like to wish Maude a very happy birthday on January 30. She turned 62 years young!

Happy first birthday, Kobe

Kobe Clark turned one year old on December 22. His parents are Kyle and Martha Clark of Grove, Oklahoma. Kobe's grandparents are Becky and Ron Hallford, McAlester, Oklahoma, and Fran-



Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma. Luke's big sister, Raelyn, is very excited. Luke is the grandson of Jeff and Pam Goad

and Shelley and Chris Kelley. He is also the great-grandson of Cecil and Debra O'Neal and Claudette and Cub Hamner. Imogene Welch is the proud great-great-grandmother. Luke and his family would like to thank the Choctaw Nation staff for their support and care.

Nursery News

Alexis Day Reynolds

James and Rhonda (Loma) Reynolds are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Alexis Day Reynolds. She was born at 8:37 a.m. on November 30, 2004, at McCurtain Memorial Hospital in Idabel, Oklahoma. Alexis weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and measured 19 inches long.

Alexis is Choctaw, Cherokee, Comanche, Cheyenne-Arapaho, Otoe and French. Her proud grandparents are Edward and Glenda Loma of Battiest, Oklahoma, Celyna and Tommy Morales of Lawton, Oklahoma, and Elwood Reynolds of Phoenix, Arizona.

We would also like to wish Nakisha Ludlow, Marilyn Thomas, Grandma Glenda, Grandma Ceeny, and Grandpa Tommy a happy birthday, all in January.

Eva Grace Vitali

Grandma Cherri and Grandpa Pete Vitali are proud to share with the world the birth of their second grandchild, Eva Grace Vitali. Our little sissy was born early on January 4, 2005. She is the delight of her

parents, Ken and Heidi Vitalli, and the love of her big brother, Max Vitali. Eva's great-great-great-grandmother was original enrollee Ida Stewart.

Chet Michael Barnett

Shad and Brandy Barnett would like to announce the birth of their son. Chet Michael, born on December 15, 2004, at Carl Albert Hospital, Ada, Oklahoma. He weighed 8 pounds 10 ounces

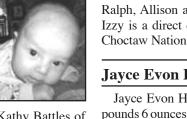
and measured 19.9 inches long. Grandparents are Kathy Battles of Holdenville, Oklahoma, Don Battles of Coalgate, Oklahoma, and Paula Powell of Coalgate. Great-grandparents are Kenneth and Betty Mitchell of Allen, Oklahoma, and the late Homer and Billye Battles of Coalgate.

Emma Katherine Stephens

Brookin and Crissy Stephens of Spiro, Oklahoma, are the proud parents of a new baby girl, born on November 15, 2004, at Talihina, Oklahoma. Emma Katherine Stephens weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Proud grandparents are Karen and Bob Erwin of







Jayce Evon Hightower was born December 28, 2004, weighing 8 pounds 6 ounces and measuring 21.5 inches long. He is the son of Amy Forrest of Bixby, Oklahoma, and Jed Hightower of Beggs, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Mike and Cindy Watkins of Bixby. Great-grandparents are Robert and Joyce Totty of Bixby. Great-great-grandmother is Millie Allen of Stigler, Oklahoma. Jayce is the great-great-grandson of the late Wilmuth Elnora Holder Totty of Hoyt, Oklahoma, an original enrollee.

Braelyn Nicole Shatto

Braelyn Nicole Shatto was born August 17, 2004, weighing 8 pounds 13 ounces and measuring 20.75 inches long. She is the daughter of Brian and Melinda Shatto of Mounds, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Robert and Joyce Totty of Bixby, Oklahoma, Charles Shatto of Mounds, Oklahoma, and Debbie of Texas. Great-grandparents include Millie Allen of Stigler and the late Wilmuth Elnora Holder Totty



Cheveyo Harley Scott

Harley and Brandi Scott of Pink, Oklahoma, are proud parents of a new baby boy, Cheveyo Harley Scott, born at 10:48 a.m. January 4, 2005. He weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces and measured 20 inches long. Grandparents are Darlene Thompson of Oklahoma City, Harley Scott Sr. of



Blanchard, Oklahoma, Diane Weeks of Yukon, Oklahoma, and Jay Bendle of Madill, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Susie King, James Paul Nail, Betty J. Scott, Aurther C. Scott, the late Harold and Mary Bendle, and Ed and Rita Streeter. Great-great-grandparents include the late James "Doc" Nail, the late Nattie Jane Bell, the late Frances Walker. Cheveyo has three brothers, C.J., Scott and Kyle Scott, and two sisters, Cera Jane Miller and April Michelle Scott.

Julianna Colleen Hamill

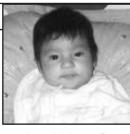
Julianna Colleen was born at 8:39 a.m. December 16, 2004, weighing 6 pounds 7 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Julianna is the daughter of Marion "Junior" and Kelly Hamill of Norman, Oklahoma. She joins one big sister, Marietta Frances. Julianna's grandparents are Marion Sr. and the late Ethel (Thompson) Hamill of



Grant, Oklahoma, and Max and Ivanell Meek of Norman.

Maria Annetta Baker

Meet the newest member of the Baker family - Maria Annetta Baker. The daughter of Mark and Margaret Baker of Dearborn, Michigan, Maria was born September 26, 2004. She is the granddaughter of Aaron and Linda Baker, formerly of Batti-

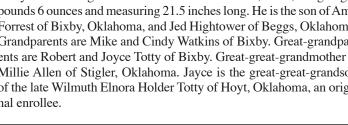


est, Oklahoma, and Jim and Patty Roby of Detroit, Michigan. Greatgrandparents are Aaron Sr. and the late Juanita Baker of Battiest and the late Daisy Mae Watson of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Maria has a big brother, Mark Christopher, who loves her very much.

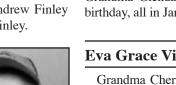
Isabelle "Izzy" Elizabeth Coxsey

Isabelle "Izzy" Elizabeth Coxsey was born January 15, 2005, in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Proud parents are Seth and Sarah Coxsey of Clear Lake Minnesota. Izzy's grandparents are Ralph and Allison Coxsey of Biloxi, Mississippi, and Al and Carol Strassburg of Clear Lake. Ralph, Allison and Seth are former residents of Durant, Oklahoma. Izzy is a direct descendant of Peter P. Pitchlynn, once Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

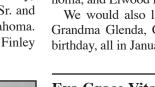
Jayce Evon Hightower











cisco and Maria Aguilar of Grove. Great-

grandparents are Walter and Sarah Amos, McAlester, and Francisca and Guadalupe Zuniga and Gregoria Aguilar of Villa de Arriaga, Mexico. Kobe had two birthday celebrations, one in Grove and one in McAlester. His grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins attended the celebrations. Kobe's uncle, Bryan Clark, turned 25 on January 4 and his parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins all wish him a happy birthday.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Tiffany and Ashley Long from Grandma, Nana, Aunt Melissa, Uncle Jo, Alissa and Kayelin.

Happy fourth birthday

Kayelin Jo would like to wish her big sister, Alissa Lynn, a happy fourth birthday on February 7. Proud parents are Jody and Melissa Kindred of Daisy. Grandparents are Rita Carter of Buffalo Valley, Don Carter of Piedmont, Ruth Kindred of Daisy and the late Arvile Kindred.

Happy birthday wishes

Joseph "J.D." Forrest turned 16 on November 23. His family and friends in Bixby, Oklahoma, wish him a happy birthday. J.D. is the son of Cindy Watkins of Bixby and the grandson of Robert and Joyce Totty of Bixby. He is the great-grandson of Millie Allen of Stigler, Oklahoma, and the late Wilmuth Elnore Holder Totty of Hoyt, Oklahoma, an original enrollee.

Happy 15th, Paula

Billy and Lettie Moore would like to wish their daughter, Paula Hamilton, a happy 15th birthday on March 25.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Trenton James Enriquez-Davis who was nine on March 8 and Hunter Darius Enriquez-Davis who was eight on March 10.



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.

Pocola, Oklahoma, and Carla and Malcolm Stephens of Spiro.

Happy 18th birthday

Jessica Christina Cockrill celebrated her 18th birthday on February 15. She is attending Haworth High School and making A's and B's. She enjoys art, singing and hanging out with her friends. Proud parents, John and Glenda; brothers, John

Jr., Dylan, and Chris of Redland; sister, Angie of Colorado; grandma Olamae of Atoka, and numerous aunts and uncles would like to wish her a happy birthday. She is the granddaughter of the late Coleman Felihkatubbe of California.

Koda turns one

Garrett and Cortney Williams would like to wish their baby brother, Koda Sanchez, a happy first birthday on March 19. Koda's parents are Janice and Mauro Sanchez. Grandparents are Faye and Joe Martindale of Albion and Cynthia Melton of Heavener. Great-grandparents are Loretta and James Melton of Whitesboro.

Turning 16

Happy 16th birthday to Austin Wade Moses on February 2. Austin is a freshman at Hilldale High School in Muskogee. He enjoys riding four-wheelers, art, and playing golf. He is the president of the youth group at Fife Memorial Methodist

Church in Muskogee. His parents are Joc and Carolyn Moses; sisters, Shawn Dixon and Catherine Moses; and older brother, Jonathan Moses, all of Muskogee. His grandparents are the late James and Annie Mae (Cricklin) Barrows and Roland and Bo Dene Moses, all of Muskogee. Great-grandparents include Fred and Mary Daisy (Jackson) Cricklin, full-blood original enrollees of Whitefield.

Happy birthday

Herman, Carla, and Rhiannon Weaver would like to wish a happy birthday to Carla's sister, Cheryl. We think you're the best RN in the world! May God bless you and happy 45th!

Happy birthday, Rebecca

Rebecca Brewer of Red Oak, Oklahoma, turned 25 on February 19, 2005. She is the daughter of Viola (Jones) Harrell of Mayflower, Arkansas, and Neal Chamberlain of Spiro, Oklahoma. Her brother, Travis of Mayflower, wishes her a happy birthday, also. Rebecca is the granddaughter of the late original enrollee Willie and Rebecca Jones of Keota, Oklahoma.



Four generations

Inez Williams, seated, is pictured with her daughter, Linda Knight; granddaughter, Christie Hood, and great-granddaughter, MaKayla Hood. Everyone would like to wish Rickey and Stacey Knight a happy fifth anniversary on February 4.

Four generations

Pauline Waugh Wright is pictured with her son, Jodie Waugh III; granddaughter, Wendy Waugh Black Houser; and her greatgrandson, Preston Black.

Alex turns five

We would like to send belated wishes for a happy birthday to Alex M. Moore. He turned five years old on December 23. His parents are Steve and Kariann Moore of Marlton, New Jersey. Grandparents are Ron Griswold of Marlton, Elisa Lowry of Eucise, Florida, and Francis and Lucretia Brown of Oklahoma City.

Happy fifth birthday

Happy birthday to Elizabeth Molina who turned five years old on December 24. Her mother is Leann Bond of Oklahoma City and grandmother is Mary Lois Bond of Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Happy birthday

Darrell Jefferson would like to wish his sister, Geneva Taylor of Cherokee, North Carolina, a happy 37th birthday on March 9.











of Hoyt, Oklahoma, an original enrollee.



Speedskater places with 52.41 seconds

Eleanor Poore, granddaughter of Linna Marilyn Campbell, placed third at the Rochester International Speedskating Competition, January 8-9. Eleanor won the 500-meter race (in the lead in photo above) with a time of 52.41 seconds. Eleanor lives in Upstate New York and in addition to speedskating, she plays lacrosse and the cello.



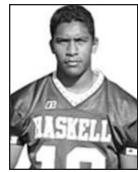
Liz turns 18!

Dorothy Elizabeth "Liz" Merritt, the daughter of Sandy Hampton and Ronnie Hampton, turned 18 on March 11. Sisters Brittany and Hailee wish her a very special birthday. Liz is the granddaughter of Dorothy Southerland and Gene and Brenda Hampton, all of Durant, and Gene and Ruth Merritt of Hanceville, Alabama.

Great-grandmothers are Margie Lilley of Durant and Elizabeth Belcher of Fulton, Alabama.

Happy birthday

The family of Abby Bohanan would like to send her bleated wishes for a happy birthday on February 15. Also happy Valentine's Day to baby Ethan Baker, Shiloh Bohanan, Kaden Mora, Peddy Mora, McKenzie Noahubi and Hunter James.



NAIA All-American second team

Cory Murphy, a freshman defensive back and point return specialist for Haskell Indian Nations University, was recently named to the 2004 NAIA Football All-American second team. Cory was also named to the first team All-Conference for special teams and first team All-Conference for defense. He led the MCAC conference for individual interceptions.

Cory is the son of Terry Ragland and Don Murphy, both of Norman, Oklahoma. His grandparents include Harry James and Carol James of Talihina, Oklahoma.



Choctaw artist

Choctaw artist Vickie (Ratliff) Hurst has recently been added to the Choctaw Artist Registry. Her artwork includes sketches, medicine pouches, beaded necklaces, and walking and talking staffs. She plans to include paintings in the future. She is being mentored by her husband, reknowned airbrush artist William Hurst of Connecticut. Vickie is currently enrolled at Northwestern College of Connecticut, pursuing an Associate of Science Degree.

Cousins compete

in pageant

Hailey Renee Brown and Ethan Cheveyo Bigfeather competed in the America's

Miss/Mr. Cover Girl/Boy State Pageant in November. Ethan placed for Best Fashion and runner-up in his division. Hailey was also runner-up in her division. Both kids

had a great time and qualified for Nationals in the summer. Ethan is the son of Mitchell Bigfeather and Cindy Tran-Bigfeather. Hailey is the daughter of Mike Brown and Ann Minyard. Both are the grandchildren of Lap and Joyce Tran. Both are from Bennington, Oklahoma, and the great-great-grandchildren of original enrollees Ella Frazier and Bob Phillips.

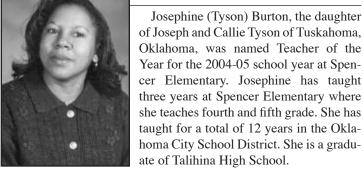


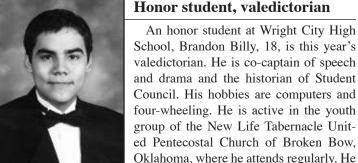
Three Choctaw Eagle Scouts

Thomas Hibben became an Eagle Scout in 1978 and was proud to see his sons also become Eagle Scouts – Tommy Dale Hibben in 1996 and Bobby Hibben in 2004. Their family and the Choctaw Nation are very proud of each of them.

Teacher of the Year

Josephine (Tyson) Burton, the daughter





School, Brandon Billy, 18, is this year's valedictorian. He is co-captain of speech and drama and the historian of Student Council. His hobbies are computers and four-wheeling. He is active in the youth group of the New Life Tabernacle United Pentecostal Church of Broken Bow,

An honor student at Wright City High

plans to attend Carl Albert State College and then finish his degree at the University of Oklahoma.

Brandon is the son of Doyle and Ruth Billy of the Herndon Community. He is the grandson of the late Andrew Bocklage and Mary Bocklage of Millington, Tennessee, and Margaret Billy and the late Samuel Billy of Sobel, Oklahoma.



Circa 1931 - Members of the Chilocco basketball team on which Mary Lois (Goer) Clifford played included (some first names missing) Weller, Sallie Sam, Johnnie Starr, Dry, Florence Halfmoon, Coach Jackie Hicks, Christine Gassaway, Faye Paine, Goer, and Faye Miller.

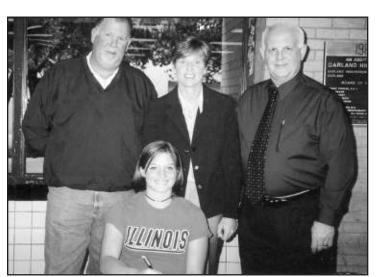
Remember when ...

Mary L. (Goer) Clifford, 90, shares her memories with readers of the BISHINIK. While at Chilocco Indian Schoolher junior and senior years, Mary played basketball. In the early 1930s, girls played the game with two guards, two centers and two forwards. Players could only dribble once and they had to stay in their area on the court. The game was much like 6-on-6 half-court play, but with three divided areas. In Oklahoma, the team played 3-division court but when in Kansas, they played 2-division court.

Mary graduated from Chilocco in 1932.

The three ladies pictured below are schoolteachers from Lula, Oklahoma, who dressed like Red Cross nurses at the funeral of Tyre Ray Kuykendall. Tyre, 26, was killed in action on November 2, 1918, while serving in World War I. He was buried at the Lula Cemetery.







Taylor, Nichols wed

Melanie Dawn Taylor of Deport, Texas, and Charles Lewis Nichols of Paris, Texas, were united in marriage on January 22, 2005, in a private doublering ceremony in Paris.

The bride is the daughter of Chester and Phyllis Taylor of Deport. She is the granddaughter of Pauline and the late Joseph Wesley of Deport and the late Leslie and Irene Taylor of Idabel, Oklahoma.

She is also the great-granddaughter of the late World War II Choctaw Code Talker Robert Taylor of Idabel.

The groom is the son of Patricia Ausmus and Carl and Judy Nichols, all of Paris.



Graduation

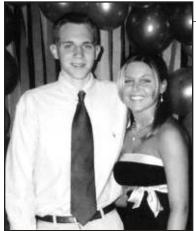
Aaron and Jennifer Deering of Mead, Oklahoma, graduated from the Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant on December 18, 2004.

Jennifer would like to thank the Choctaw Nation and Higher Education for their assistance in helping her to achieve this very important event in her life.

Jennifer is an employee of the Choctaw Management Services Enterprise. She is the daughter of Mark Underwood and the granddaughter of Vernon and Carolyn Underwood, all of Wilburton, Oklahoma. Aaron is the son of Debbie Fassio, also of Wilburton.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Courtney Nottingham who earned her doctorate degree at the University of Southern California last May. Currently she is a professor of English at Lianong University in Shenyang, China.



Stuart Homecoming

Krystle Countz has been crowned Homecoming Queen for 2005 at Stuart High School. Homecoming King was Ronnie Morris. Both have played basketball for the Stuart Hornets for four years.

Krystle is the daughter of Pam and Eric West of Stuart and Jimmy and Donna Countz, Indianola, Oklahoma.

Ronnie is the son of Kevin and Regina Morris of Stuart.



Song evangelist

McAlester resident Edward Daney is a Choctaw with a natural gift of music. A self-taught pianist, bass player, songwriter and singer, Edward was a member of the singing group called the Cornerstones. He was

their bass player for 12 years. While part of this group he discovered hidden talents within, and began to teach himself to play Gospel songs, sing-along, playing in only one key. He also began to have a yearning to minister to hurting people; those who seemed to have lost all hope. Nursing homes began to open their doors to Edward to play the piano, sing, and minister on a regular basis. Now, Edward ministers in over 57 nursing homes, as well as churches and community gatherings.

He has just completed his first solo album of English and Choctaw hymns and gospel songs, including one of his original songs, "Time to Make a Difference." The project is produced by PLUMB™ Records Recording Studio, owned and operated by Mattie Maloy.

"I would like to thank family members, church brothers and sisters, and friends for all their encouraging words, prayer support and financial support during these last few years," said Edward. "With the grace of God I have come this far by faith. God is leading us on to reach the world for Jesus."



On November 5, 2004, at the NALS' Annual Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi, judges announced that Shirley (Burgess) Vanderbeck, CL§, PLS-PP, CLA, CNSA, CM, from California, is this year's recipient of the National Legal Secretary of the Year - Award of Excellence.

Since 1997, Shirley has applied her tremendous skills and knowledge as Legal

Assistant/Office and Property Manager at the law offices of Sandra N. Baldonado in Claremont, California. Ms. Baldonado is also the Mayor of the City of Claremont and served as an aide to President Lyndon B. Johnson before moving from Washington, D.C., to California.

While the NALS award is the ultimate professional honor for Shirley, she is no stranger to receiving honors, awards and certifications and as a NALS member for nearly 40 years, her association credentials are just as impressive as her other achievements. She has served as chair of a number of state committees, served as parliamentarian and executive assistant, and was elected as charter first vice president, then serving as president, and national director of the California Association of Legal Secretaries.

Shirley is very proud of her Choctaw ancestry. Her grandmother, Elizabeth Rozell, and great-grandmother, Talitha Ann (Stanton) Rozell, were original enrollees.

Lana Armstrong signs with University of Illinois

Lana Michelle Armstrong was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Illinois, the "Fighting Illini," to play softball for Coach Terry Sullivan. She is currently a senior at Garland High School in Garland, Texas, where she has played ball on varsity for four years as the starting catcher where she carries a 3.6 gpa. Lana also plays year-round on a Junior Olympic team from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area named the Tomboys in 18-Gold. Among her honors are Garland ISD Academics Excellence Award, National Honor Roll, NRCA All-American Scholar Athlete, National Honor Society, and Dallas Morning News All Area Team Newcomer of the Year and All-District Defensive Player of the Year for all four years. Lana is also in Future Teachers of America and plans to major in Kinesiology and wants to coach high school softball in the future. She states that she owes her talent to her father who has coached her since she was five and success to her high school coach, Cindy Mossteller, for emphasizing how important academics are also.

Lana is the daughter of Jerry and Karen Armstrong of Rowlett, Texas, and the granddaughter of Danny Daniels and the late Gwen Daniels of Talihina. She is very proud to be Choctaw!!!



Three Choctaws meet on art tour

Choctaws Alice Hilseweck Ball of Atlanta, Georgia, Betty Pugh Over of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Jana Over of Washington, D.C., recently met on an art tour of Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico. The tour was sponsored by the Randolph-Macon Woman's College Maier Museum of Art. The tour included visits to the private homes of art collectors and artists, such as the famous potter, Dora Tse Pe of San Ildefonso Pueblo.

Alice and Jana received undergraduate degrees from Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia. Alice also attended Yale University and most recently served as a Mediator at the Justice Center of Atlanta. Prior to her marriage, Betty worked for the FBI in Washington, D.C. She is the daughter of Lois McAlvain Pugh of McAlester, Oklahoma. Betty's daughter, Jana, currently works for the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C.

National Legal Secretary of Year



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Councilman Joe Coley are pictured at the Choctaw Community Center in Wilburton with Original Enrollee Irene Mills who turned 100 years young on January 31!

"Come on down ..."

Minnie Hamm and husband, Ken, traveled to California in November 2004 to be on the popular "Price Is Right" game show. Minnie, pictured at right with Councilman Delton Cox and wife, Delores, was invited to "Come on down" and subsequently won \$1,000 in cash, a new refrigerator-freezer and a 2005 Grand Prix. The show was televised on the morning of Monday, March 14. Congratulations!



Original enrollee turns 100 Group aniovs lunch in Wilburton

Group enjoys lunch in Wilburton



Bernice Long wins the door prize at Wilburton.



Marvin Ginn gets his blood pressure checked by Christopher Colsom of Mayes Home Health at Wilburton.







The Jones Academy Boxing Team, above, approximately 1943, with Mickey McClure seated on ground in the front and Robert Wood squatting to the right. Robert Wood, center at left, presents "Letter" to Mickey McClure at the 2002 Jones Academy Male Reunion.

Wood donates \$1,500 to scholarship fund

Robert H. Wood, who taught agriculture, coached, and directed farming operations at Jones Academy from 1942 to 1947 donated \$1,500 to the scholarship fund. A scholarship of \$500 will be awarded to a Jones Academy college student for showing leadership, good sportsmanship, and citizenship qualities. Wood requested that the award be in honor of James "Mickey" McClure who was a student at Jones Academy and was Captain of the Jones Academy Boxing Team. Coach Wood had a long career of service but still enjoys the memories of his days at Jones Academy with his "boys."



Attention:

Families of Rayson and Lucy Thompson Going

The grandchildren of Rayson and Lucy Thompson Go-

2005 Native American Jr. Golf Camp Sponsored by

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation June 5-9, 2005 Chickasaw Pointe Golf Resort

District 9 Princess Pageant

The District 9 Princess Pageant will be held during the Magnolia Festival, at 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 3, on the Courthouse Lawn in Durant. Females within the ages of 8 to 23, single with no dependents, and at least 1/16 Choctaw can call Kay Jackson or Martha Polk at 1-800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2204, for applications. Deadline for applications is April 29.

Twin girls Kylie Nicole Mote and Rylie Joe Mote are held by grandma Audie Prock and mom Erin Nicole Rice at Wilburton. Great-grandmother Evelyn Prock is standing with Chief Pyle and Councilman Joe Coley. The babies' dad is Zach Mote.

Valentine King and Queen



Tribal Councilman Mike Amos attended a Valentine's Party at Broken Bow Family Investment Center as the Broken Bow Senior Citizens group crowned James and Verna Fails of Broken Bow as their Valentine King and Queen on February 9.

The senior citizens attending exchanged Valentine cards; many of which were handmade by the persons giving them to their friends. The tables were decorated with balloons, candies and special decorations made by some of the ladies in attendance.

After her coronation, Queen Verna told the partygoers that she and James were celebrating an anniversary.

"It was on Valentine's Day one year ago that we began dating. He showed up at my door with a bouquet of pink roses, some candy and asked me out to dinner. I knew then that he was the guy for me."

Mr. and Mrs. Fails were married on September 25, 2004.

Mr. Fails is the great-great-great-grandson of Elsie Beames, Roebuck, Hart, Walker, who came to Oklahoma across the Trail of Tears in 1832, and Exekiel Roebuck, who died along the Trail of Tears.

CARES begins Family Support Project

Choctaw Nation CARES project, located in Talihina, Oklahoma, is starting a new community project in the 10 1/2 county Choctaw Nation service area. The purpose of this project is to form family focus groups to support the parents/guardians of at-risk children in the strengthening and development of parenting skills and techniques. Anyone interested in the Family Support Project should contact Jeremy Bull, CARES Family Advocate Specialist, at the CARES Project office at (918) 567-4128.



Visit our website It's so easy and convenient for you to apply online to purchase or refinance a home at

www.choctawhomefinance.web-loans.com

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

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

CHOCTAW NATION HOME FINANCE

ing are gathering their aunts, Ruby Stotts, Frances Neill, Mabel McGuire and Virginia Williams.

A Potluck Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 26, at 1 p.m. at the Talihina Choctaw Nation Community Center.

All family and friends are invited to attend. Contact Jo Neal Billie at 601-656-9615 if you have any questions.

American Indian Chamber of Commerce meets in Durant

The American Indian Chamber of Commerce meets every third Wednesday of the month at the Choctaw Inn in Durant, Oklahoma.

Representatives from all Indian-owned businesses are urged to attend.

Please contact Sue Folsom at suefolsom@choctawnation. com or valeriet@email.com. Lake Texoma Two sessions: Advanced - June 5-7; Beginner and Intermediate players - June 7-9 *Application deadline is April 12, 2005* For more information or an application, contact Sue Folsom, 800-522-6170, ext. 2134, or Kay Jackson, 800-522-6170,

ext. 2203 Selected applicants shall be notified by letter no later than May 2, 2005.







Sr. Showmanship Kaitlin Rodgers, Calera

Jr. Showmanship Madelyn Guazdausky, Wilburton



Grand Champion Swine and Cross Breed Champion – Kirsten Rodgers, Calera.



Reserve Champion Swine and Cross Reserve Breed Champion – Vincent Mares, Jones Academy.



Choctaw Nation Livestock Show

The 14th Annual Choctaw Nation Livestock Show was held on Saturday, February 5 and 6th, in Wilburton, Oklahoma. Beef judge was Eric Bilderback of El Reno, Oklahoma. He is the livestock judging team coach at the Redlands Junior College in El Reno. Swine judge was Alan Schminke of Van Horne, Iowa. He judges swine shows nationally and last year judged the Oklahoma City Junior Livestock Show, the world's largest livestock show. Over 400 swine and 100 head of cattle were entered into this year's competition.

SWINE

Grand Champion Swine – Kirsten Rodgers, Calera Reserve Champion Swine – Vincent Mares, Jones Academy Sr. Showmanship – Kaitlin Rodgers, Calera Jr. Showmanship – Madelyn Guazdausky, Wilburton

Berkshire

Breed Champion – David Bean, Wright City Reserve Breed Champion – Ariel LeForce, Broken Bow Class I first: David Bean, Wright City; second: Ariel LeForce, Broken Bow; third: Randy Bean, Broken Bow; fourth: Emmlie Scroggins, Valliant.

Chesters

Breed Champion – Derek Kelso, Broken Bow Reserve Breed Champion – Candice Gibson, Jones Academy

Class I first: Candice Gibson, Jones Academy; second: Tara Gwinn, Coalgate; third: Charlie Clairmont, Jones Academy; fourth: Chelsea Coffman, Valliant; fifth: Tyler Pogue, Hartshorne; sixth: Taylor Murdaugh, Stuart; seventh: Jess Buss, Wapanucka; eighth: Jenny Morgan, Red Oak.

Class II first: Derek Kelso, Broken Bow; second: Rodney Bray, Broken Bow; third: Cameron Teal, Bennington; fourth: Whitney Ward, Poteau; fifth: Joseph Morgan, Hartshorne; sixth: Cheyenne Neal, Jones Academy; seventh: Blake Jackson, Hartshorne; eighth: Otho Head, Jones Academy.

Durocs

Breed Champion – Tara Gwinn, Coalgate Reserve Breed Champion – Lane Williams, Idabel

Class I first: Ruben Kauley, Jones Academy; second: Derek Anderson, Battiest; third: Lindsey Clark, Hartshorne; fourth: Jessica Collins, Milburn; fifth: Bryan Lockaby, Panama; seventh: Jared Bailey, Hugo; eighth: Jeremy Pogue, Hartshorne; ninth: Taylor Cannadey, Talihina; tenth: Williams Seagraves, Panama; eleventh: Todd McGee, Red Oak.

Class II first: Lane Williams, Idabel; second: Destin Moore, Wright City; third: Dustin Mattox, Howe; fourth: Tad Hold, Bennington; fifth: Evangelina Morgan, Red Oak; sixth: Colton Mussett, Wright City; seventh: Candice Baker, Hartshorne; eighth: Josh Dobbins, Achille; ninth: Emilia Lopez, Hugo.

Class III first: Chelsea Coffman, Valliant; second: Derek Anderson, Battiest; third: Kason Ross, Keota; fourth: Elaina Jefferson, Battiest; fifth: Britton Williams, Jones Academy; sixth: Tamra Anderson, Panama; seventh: Tristan Bailey, Smithville; eighth: Kyle Brown, Spiro; ninth: Brittany Hayes, Spiro; tenth: Justin Bush, Panola.

Class IV first: Kason Ross, Keota; second: Justin Daniel, Jones Academy; third: Lonnie Russell, Caddo; fourth: Rachel Norris, Tushka; fifth: Jesse Pitchford, Hartshorne; sixth: Brittanie Williams, Tupelo; seventh: Matt Gabbart, Caddo; eighth: Lacie Duggan, Wilburton; ninth: Dustin Ward, Wister; tenth: Ryan Minyard, Durant; eleventh: Todd McGee, Red Oak.

Class V first: Whitlie Curliss, Haileyville; second: Rodney Bray, Jr., Broken Bow; third: Cherish Timmons, Haileyville; fourth:



Choctaw Nation Councilmen James Frazier, Joe Coley, Jack Austin and Perry Thompson present an award of appreciation to Billy Bailey, Choctaw Nation Agriculture, for all the help he has provided area youth.



Duroc Breed Champion - Tara Gwinn, Coalgate.



Duroc Reserve Grand Champion - Lane Williams, Idabel.



Berkshire Breed Champion – David Bean, Wright City.



Berkshire Reserve Breed Champion – Ariel LeForce, Broken Bow.



Chester Breed Champion - Derek Kelso, Broken Bow.



Chester Reserve Breed Champion – Candice Gibson, Jones Academy.

Shawn Kinser, Boswell; fifth: Kenna Ashalintubbi, Eagletown; sixth: Jacob Peters, Clayton; seventh: Richard Pedro, Jones Academy; eighth: Tamra Bell, Wilburton; ninth: Rhiannon Bean, Broken Bow.

Class VI first: Tara Gwinn, Coalgate; second: Eric Bohanan, Smithville; third: Heather O'Neal; fourth: Dillon Burns, Coalgate; fifth: Madelyn Guazdausky, Wilburton; sixth: Sally Simco, Quinton; seventh: Austin Shero, Hartshorne; eighth: Andrea Pierce, Wister; ninth: Ross Phillips, Whitesboro; tenth: Aaron McClain, Buffalo Valley.

Class VII first: Blair Smallwood, Clayton; second: Lacey Hotubbee, Antlers; third: Clay Phillips, Heavener; fourth: Colby Skelton, Panama; fifth: Michael Maxwell, Durant; sixth: Laramie Beal, Coalgate; seventh: Jana Chancellor, Whitesboro; eighth: Jeremy Pryor, Savanna; ninth: Randi Williams, Spiro; tenth: Bradley Hutson, Clayton.

Hampshire

Breed Champion – Ashton Thompson, Rock Creek Reserve Breed Champion – Jared James Wilburton

Class I first: Kami Willis, Caney; second: Alexandria Picone, Jones Academy; third: Amber Frazier, Tushka; fourth: Levi Phillips, Hodgen; fifth: Devon Midgley, Buffalo Valley; sixth: Tiffany Seagraves, Panama; seventh: Robbie Garside, Stringtown; eighth: Brittney Doyle, Buffalo Valley; ninth: Dustin Hodges, Crowder; tenth: Mark Goodrich, Talihina.

Class II first: Stephanie Gay, Eagletown; second: Ashlyn Finch, Soper; third: Ricky Morgan, Hartshorne; fourth: Sage Rice, Soper; fifth: Bobby Hummel, Wapanucka; sixth: Kannon Jackson, Durant; seventh: Amanda Ade, Talihina; eighth: Logan Hatter, Wapanucka; ninth: Linsey Duggan, Panola.

Class III first: Paige Olive, Heavener; second: Cody Edmondson, Idabel; third: Micah Tiger, Jones Academy; fourth: Bobby Garrett, Hugo; fifth: Tiler Savage, Hartshorne; sixth: Caitlin Spears, Wilburton; seventh: Lee McBroom, Smithville; eighth: Sara Effinger, Canadian; ninth: Elizabeth Ade, Talihina.

Class IV first: Katie Cox, LeFlore; second: Kristen Daniels, Savanna; third: Dakoda Dowty, Battiest; fourth: Axton Cook, Pittsburg County 4-H; fifth: Daniel Lawson, Canadian; sixth: Whitney Sebo, Spiro; seventh: Tristan Bailey, Smithville; eighth: Lauren Hayes, Tushka; ninth: Juan Lopez, Hugo; tenth: Kareesa Kennedy, Albion.

Class V first: Crystal Baker, Jones Academy; second: Garrett Bean, Wright City; third: Miranda Finch, Soper; fourth: Amy Teel, Keota; fifth: Cherish Timmons, Haileyville; sixth: Shawn Kinser, Boswell; seventh: Dakota Hakit, Buffalo Valley; eighth: Clay Doyle, Kiowa; ninth: Joe Paxton, Calvin; tenth: Colby Earthman, Rattan; eleventh: Kaci Trenthim, Coalgate.

Class VI first: Kayla Hodge, Battiest; second: Logan Byrd, Hartshorne; third: Lane Williams, Idabel; fourth: Sasha Morris, Clayton; fifth: Todd McGee, Red Oak; sixth: Tasha Joines, Caddo; seventh: Courtney Coffman, Valliant; eighth: Drew Parker, Tupelo; ninth: Mark Goodrich, Talihina; tenth: Kiley Russell, Caddo.

Class VII first: Josh William, Rock Creek; second: Stetson Jennings, Caney; third: Donovan Morris, Spiro; fourth: Hailey Raines, Fanshawe; fifth: Matthew Effinger, Canadian; sixth: Jared Elrod, Stringtown; seventh: Bransen Shelton, Wright City; eighth: Tristen Ward, Wister; ninth: Scott Keeler, Tushka.

Class VIII first: Ashley Webb, Rattan; second: Shane Peace, See LIVESTOCK on Page 9

Hampshire Breed Champion – Ashton Thompson, Rock Creek.



Hampshire Reserve Breed Champion – Jared James, Wilburton.



Poland Breed Champion – Vincent Mares, Jones Academy.



Poland Reserve Breed Champion – Cherish Timmons, Haileyville, and Sophia Bullard.

Livestock continued from Page 8 _

Hartshorne; third: Padyn Hobgood, Colbert; fourth: James Clark, Hartshorne; fifth: Tad Holt, Bennington; sixth: Will Ardese, Hartshorne; seventh: Hannah Cherry, Red Oak; eighth: Travis Hardin; ninth: Carter Baldwin, Canadian; tenth: Colton Mussett, Wright City.

Class IX first: Cody Dosh, Rock Creek; second: Trey Phillips, Boswell; third: Tanner Loman, Rattan; fourth: Chad Twaddle, Buffalo Valley; fifth: Ashley Snders, Rock Creek; sixth: Casey Jones, Bennington; seventh: Brian Blankenship, Hartshorne; eighth: Sean Keeler, Tushka; ninth: Sarah Thompson, Hugo; tenth: Trevor Smith, Hodgen.

Class X first: Justice Shepherd, Keota; second: Tandra Elkins, Coalgate; third: Cheyenne Neal, Jones Academy; fourth: Jessica Holt, Antlers; fifth: Jacob Peters, Clayton; sixth: Bryce Livingston, Wilburton; seventh: Bryce Livingston, Wilburton; eighth: Keaton Womack, Clayton; ninth: Tyler Shann, Haileyville; tenth: Nicole Robertson, Hugo; eleventh: Meagan Ryburn, Wister.

Class XI first: Jared James, Wilburton; second: Otho Head, Jones Academy; third: Charlee Goodwin, Caddo; fourth: Jannaca Williams, Rock Creek; fifth: Glen Frost, LeFlore; sixth: Katey Johnson, Whitesboro; seventh: Laramie Beal, Coalgate; eighth: Sharla Dewitt, Wapanucka; ninth: Ross Phillips, Whitesboro.

Class XII first: Ashton Thompson, Rock Creek; second: Sassy Ashalintubbi, Eagletown; third: Freddy James, Wilburton; fourth: Cody Dosh, Rock Creek; fifth: Samantha Anderson, Panama; sixth: Aspen Clemons, Coalgate; seventh: Cody Dosh, Rock Creek; eighth: Jett Gardner, Antlers.

Polands

Breed Champion - Vincent Mares, Jones Academy

Reserve Breed Champion - Cherish Timmons, Haileyville Class I first: Cherish Timmons, Haileyville; second: Otho Head, Jones Academy; third: Bransen Shelton, Wright City; fourth: Ethan Pitchford, Hartshorne; fifth: Rae Gail Wilson, Hartshorne; sixth: David Dill, Rock Creek.

Class II first: Vincent Mares, Jones Academy; second: Aaron Toledo, Jones Academy; third: Crystal Baker, Jones Academy.

Spots

Breed Champion - Ruben Kauley, Jones Academy

Reserve Breed Champion - Tyler Hedge, Jones Academy Class I first: Ruben Kauley, Jones Academy; second: Tyler Hedge, Jones Academy; third: Jeremy Pryor, Savanna; fourth: Taletha Taylor, Jones Academy; fifth: Chelsea Coffman, Valliant; sixth: Dakota Stark, Stuart; seventh: Patsy Hedge, Jones Academy; eighth: Sarah Lee, Smithville; ninth: Tristan Bailey, Smithville.

Class II first: Micah Tiger, Jones Academy; second: Tasha Wall, Broken Bow; third: Justin Daniel, Jones Academy; fourth: Michael Willingham, Broken Bow; fifth: Eric Gibson, Jones Academy; sixth: Gary Dewitt, Wapanucka; seventh: Caleb Collins, Hartshorne; eighth: Dillon Burns, Coalgate.

Yorkshire

Breed Champion - Blair Smallwood, Clayton

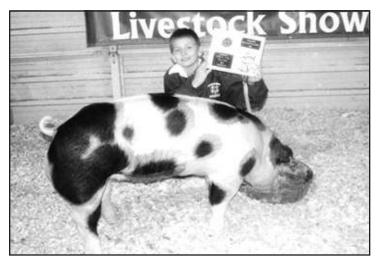
Reserve Breed Champion - Madelyn Guazdausky, Wilburton Class I first: Courtney Coffman, Valliant; second: Jerry O'Bryan, Whitesboro; third: Shayla Bullard, Red Oak; fourth: Ashlyn Murdaugh, Stuart; fifth: Chad McDonald, Quinton; sixth: Shantay Midgley, Buffalo Valley; seventh: Evangelina Morgan, Red Oak; eighth: Kacie Raines, Wister; ninth: Tanner Ward, Wister.

Class II first: Vincent Mares, Jones Academy; second: Stephanie Gay, Eagletown; third: Brandon Vanhook, Red Oak; fourth: Cody Wilson, Hartshorne; fifth: Brittan Raines, Fanshawe; sixth: Laci Hammons, Wilburton; seventh: Jessica Smith, Hodgen; eighth: Ace'Lee Pittman, Wright City; ninth: Damion Zaste, Panola; tenth: Rachel Smith, Hodgen; eleventh: Phyllis Doyle, Howe.

Class III first: Blair Smallwood, Clayton; second: Kayla Hodge, Battiest; third: Kodie Tonihka, Broken Bow; fourth: Jennifer Wil-



Spot Breed Champion - Ruben Kauley, Jones Academy.



Spot Reserve Breed Champion - Tyler Hedge, Jones Academv.

liams, Idabel; fifth: Corbe Ake, Tupelo; sixth: Jeff Dillard, Caney; seventh: Kiley Beaty, Achille; eighth: Kami Willis, Caney; ninth: Trevor Smith, Hodgen; tenth: Dustin Bailey, Hugo.

Class IV first: Madelyn Guazdausky, Wilburton; second: Jared James, Wilburton; third: Tara Gwinn, Coalgate; fourth: Freddy James, Wilburton; fifth: Joseph Cox, LeFlore; sixth: Tamra Bell, Wilburton; seventh: Heather O'Neal, Tuskahoma; eighth: Kashs Fryer, Caddo; ninth: Kaylee Rodgers, Spiro; tenth: Aspen Clemens, Coalgate.

Class V first: Travis Cox, Spiro; second: Tabitha Barnhouse, Haileyville; third: Sassy Ashalintubbi, Eagletown; fourth: Kareesa Kennedy, Albion; fifth: Stephanie Gay, Eagletown; sixth: Jared Elrod, Stringtown; seventh: Kristen Hedge, Rattan; eighth: Ross Phillips, Whitesboro; ninth: Morgan Mings, Whitesboro; tenth: Sharla Dewitt, Wapanucka.

Cross

Breed Champion - Kirsten Rodgers, Calera

Reserve Breed Champion - Vincent Mares, Jones Academy

Class I first: Courtney Coffman, Valliant; second: Eric Roberts, Boswell; third: Makenzie McNeal, Idabel; fourth: Anthony Doyle, Buffalo Valley; fifth: Ben Blankenship, Hartshorne; sixth: Nicole Pittman, Boswell; seventh: Chance Hensley, Battiest; eighth: Roger Garrett, Hugo; ninth: Emmlie Scroggins, Valliant; tenth: Michael Dunn, Soper.

Class II first: Bryce Carter, Soper; second: Jessica Collins, Milburn; third: Jay Carter, Soper; fourth: Hannah Cherry, Red Oak; fifth: Eric Patty, Rock Creek; sixth: Ronda Doyle, Howe; seventh: Rachael Raynolds, Soper; eighth: Dukoda Palmer, Buffalo Valley;

ninth: Keaton Palmer, Buffalo Valley; tenth: Josh Molgan, Red Oak.

Class III first: Angela Robinson, Soper; second: Kali Lockaby, Panama; third: Tanner McKee, Soper; fourth: Lindsey Shelton, Stuart; fifth: Candi Bacon, Soper; sixth: Brittney Doyle, Buffalo Valley; seventh: Haley Dusenberry, Soper; eighth: Chad Twaddle, Buffalo Valley; ninth: Jessica Smith, Hodgen; tenth: Lauren Hayes, Tushka; eleventh: Joe Paxton, Calvin.

Class IV first: Vincent Mares, Jones Academy; second: Tiler Savage, Hartshorne; third: Jacob Hammond, Bennington; fourth: Dylan Pitchford, Hartshorne; fifth: Jess Bean, Wright City; sixth: Paige Rhoton, Calvin; seventh: Chrissy Dill, Rock Creek; eighth: Samantha Holbird, Red Oak; ninth: Tristan Tiger, Calvin.

Class V first: Casey Jones, Bennington; second: Kyle Daniels, Savanna; third: Seana Garrison, Ft. Towson; fourth: Destin Moore, Wright City; fifth: Mia McKee, Soper; sixth: Tandy Dunn, Soper; seventh: James Clark, Hartshorne; eighth: Macy Pierce, Boswell; ninth: Ashley Boydstun, Bennington; tenth: Mark Goodrich, Talihina.

Class VI first: Keiko Stebbins, Haileyville; second: Tyler Shann, Haileyville; third: Madelyn Guazdausky, Wilburton; fourth: Austin Jestis, Durant; fifth: Megan Jones, Bennington; sixth: Michael Maxwell, Durant; seventh: Brad Jennings, Caney; eighth: Molly Sanders, Rock Creek.

Class VII first: Justin Daniel, Jones Academy; second: Tad Holt, Bennington; third: Shelby Gallant, Soper; fourth: Amy Teel, Keota; fifth: Eric Burgess, Panama; sixth: Brandon Hummel, Wapanucka; seventh: Bryce Livingston, Wilburton; eighth: Jonathan Adam, Wright City.

Class VIII first: Candace Gibson, Jones Academy; second: Shane Peace, Hartshorne; third: Cameron Teal, Bennington; fourth: Johnny Quinones, Jones Academy; fifth: Jana Chancellor, Whitesboro; sixth: Logan Byrd, Hartshorne; seventh: Justin Bush, Panola; eighth: Natasha Dunlap, Rattan; ninth: Lonnie Hedrick, Canadian; tenth: Tyler Hardin; eleventh: Robbie Garside, Stringtown.

Class IX first: Lindsey Shelton, Stuart; second: Kendra Seely, Jones Academy; third: Rachel Smith, Hodgen; fourth: Caitlin Spears, Wilburton; fifth: Blair Smallwood, Clayton; sixth: Courtney Duggan, Wilburton; seventh: Justin Landreth, Antlers; eighth: Meagan Ryburn, Wister; ninth: Jerry Alexander II; tenth: Spencer Morris, Clayton; eleventh: Askia Hummel, Wapanucka.

Class X first: Jared James, Wilburton; second: Freddy James, Wilburton; third: Hillarce Cox, Spiro; fourth: Kenna Ashalintubbi, Eagletown; fifth: J.J. Bull, Panola; sixth: Richaed Flatt Bragg, Soper; seventh: Bobby Boydstun, Bennington; eighth: Colby Moffatt, Soper; ninth: Katey Johnson, Whitesboro; tenth: Corby Ake, Tupelo.

Class XI first: Caitlin Spears, Wilburton; second: Darlene Blaine, Jones Adacemy; third: Jeromy Teal, Bennington; fourth: Charlie Clairmont, Jones Academy; fifth: Morgan Mings, Whitesboro; sixth: Garrett Bean, Wright City; seventh: Joey Scott, Antlers; eighth: Sally Simco, Quinton; ninth: Elaina Jefferson, Battiest; tenth: Charlie Hamilton, III, Achille.

Class XII first: Tabitha Barnhouse, Haileyville; second: Sassy Ashalintubbi, Eagletown; third: Jeromy Teal, Bennington; fourth: Kacie Raines, Wister; fifth: Levi Phillips, Hodgen; sixth: Justice Shepherd, Keota; seventh: Jeromy Teal, Bennington; eighth: Madison Rodgers, Calera; ninth: Trevor Phillips, Boswell; tenth: Brittany Webb, Rattan; eleventh: Colby Skelton, Panama.

Class XIII first: Kirsten Rodgers, Calera; second: Brent Anderson, Spiro; third: Ashton Thompson, Rock Creek; fourth: Kayla Hodge, Battiest; fifth: Padyn Hobgood, Colbert; sixth: Tyler Shann, Haileyville; seventh: Kaitlin Rodgers, Calera; eighth: Clay Phillips, Heavener; ninth: Matt Gabbart, Caddo; tenth: Katlyn Beaty, Achille. See LIVESTOCK on Page 10

Women in Agriculture & Small Business

"Breaking New Ground"

Thursday, March 31, 2005

8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Southeast Expo Center in McAlester, Oklahoma Conference hosted by Ouachita Mountains RC&D, Inc.

- Open to the public -

Attend the workshop and learn how to:

- Make your farm/small business more productive and profitable
- · Meet other women involved in agriculture and small business
- Become part of a network of support
- Get insights on investment options for the future
- Learn to better organize your records
- Improve your management skills and expertise
- · Make informed day-to-day business and family decisions
- Organize your operation to accomplish your goals
- Take home a wealth of contact information and reference materials ... keep "sowing the seeds of success" long after the workshop is over!

Register early - seating is limited!

Registration Fee: \$20 • Vendor: \$50 • Vendor Guest: \$20

For information call 918-423-2479 or e-mail Linda.Parkhurst@ok.usda.gov

USDA releases \$15 million and final rule for Conservation Innovation Grants

The United States Department of Agriculture released the final rule for conservation innovation grants and announced that \$15 million will be available to fund selected grant proposals due on March 28, 2005.

"This program provides a great opportunity to promote conservation technologies and stimulate innovative approaches to environmental enhancement and protection on working lands," Agriculture Secretary Veneman said. "Farmers and ranchers will benefit by having new technologies to protect the environment and comply with federal, state and local regulations."

The 2002 Farm Bill established these grants as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on January 11, 2005.

At the same time, NRCS announced the nationwide grant competition through a request for proposals on the federal government's eGrant website at http:// www.grants.gov.

This grant program also will engage other sectors, such as states and the conservation and philanthropic communities, to help develop, test, implement and transfer innovative environmental solutions. It will provide opportunities for public-private partnerships to accelerate technology transfer and implementation of promising technologies and approaches.

Conservation innovative grant proposals will be accepted from eligible governmental or nongovernmental organizations and individuals for innovative single or multi-year projects involving producers who qualify for EQIP. The grants will fund projects targeting innovative on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations. Project proposals may address areas such as market-based pollution credit trading, agricultural conservation systems, carbon sequestration and reduction

of applied nutrients. Proposals must follow the format described in the RFP and received in the NRCS National Office by 5 p.m. EST on March 28, 2005.

Selected applicants may receive grants up to 50% of the total project cost. An exception allows for beginning and limited resource farmers and ranchers, tribes and community-based organizations representing these groups to obtain a higher percentage of project matching funds from in-kind contributions. The federal contribution may not exceed \$1 million for a single project.

Additional information on conservation innovation grants is available at http://www.nrcs. usda.gov/programs/cig or your local NRCS, or the local conservation district office located in the county you live in.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TAR-GET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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



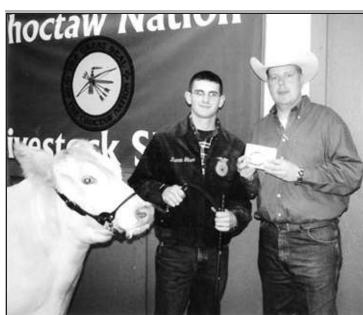
with Christine Higgins after greeting Edward and Doralene Smith during the holiday festivities at the Choctaw Community Center in Crowder.







Grand Champion Heifer and Continental Division Breed Champion Heifer – Kendall Gibson, Quinton.



Beef Sr. Showmanship – Keenan Gibson, Quinton.



Reserve Grand Champion Heifer and Continental Division Reserve Breed Champion Heifer – Brent Spencer, Howe.



English Division Breed Champion Heifer – Kyle Pingleton, Hartshorne.





Beef Jr. Showmanship - Timber Stephens, Atoka.



Brahman Influence Breed Champion Heifer – Eric Shaw, Antlers.

Livestock continued from Page 9	For reprints
BEEF	of
– Heifer –	photos,
Grand Champion Heifer – Kendall Gibson,	please
Quinton	call
Reserve Grand Champion Heifer – Brent Spencer,	Vonna
Howe	Shults,
Beef Sr. Showmanship – Keenan Gibson, Quinton	800-522-
Beef Jr. Showmanship – Timber Stephens, Atoka	6170, ext.
English Division	2347



Grand Champion Steer and AOB Division Breed Champion Steer – Whitlie Curliss, Haileyville.



Reserve Grand Champion Steer and AOB Division Reserve Breed Champion Steer – Laramie Nichols.



English Division Breed Champion Steer – Keenan Gibson, Quinton.



English Division Reserve Breed Champion Steer - Taylor

English Division Reserve Breed Champion Heifer – Dalon Gibson, Crowder.



AOB Division Breed Champion Heifer – Keenan Gibson, Quinton.



AOB Division Reserve Breed Champion Heifer – Kelsey Crane, Wister.



Brahman Influence Reserve Breed Champion Heifer – Eric Shaw, Antlers.

Breed Champion – Kyle Pingleton, Hartshorne 2347. Reserve Breed Champion – Dalon Gibson, Crowder

Class I first: Kyle Pingleton, Hartshorne; second: Derek Shaw, Buffalo Valley; third: J.J. Bull, Panola; fourth: Luke Forwoodson, Wilburton; fifth: Cord Forwoodson, Wilburton; sixth: Shana Rhodes, Caney.

Class II first: Jessica Collins, Milburn; second: Kyle Pingleton, Hartshorne; third: Tyler Powell, Atoka; fourth: Ashton Forwoodson, Wilburton; fifth: Randy Bean, Broken Bow.

Class III first: Josh Hollingsworth, Durant; second: Randi Staton, Hugo; third: Caleb Eaves, Harmony; fourth: Sarah Smith, Caddo.

Class IV first: Dalon Gibson, Crowder; second: Ashley Edmondson, Idabel; third: Jenna Kuhlman, Calvin.

Continental Division

Breed Champion – Kendall Gibson, Quinton

Reserve Breed Champion – Brent Spencer, Howe

Class I first: Kyle Pingleton, Hartshorne; second: Sarah McGee, Wilburton; third: Josh Self, Stigler; fourth: J.J. Bull, Panola; fifth: Dalon Gibson, Crowder.

Class II first: Michael Billy, Poteau; second: Timber Stephens, Atoka; third: Brandon Johnson, Stigler; fourth: Zach Bean, Wright City; fifth: Jerrod Long, Stigler.

Class III first: Langston Upton, Wister; second: Dalton Smith, Boswell; third: Kaci Trentham, Coalgate; fourth: Trey Sanders, Heavener; fifth: Megan Lewis, Kiowa; sixth: Dillon Burns, Coalgate; seventh: Bo Lewis, Kiowa.

Class IV first: Kendall Gibson, Quinton; second: Brent Spencer, Poteau; third: Sarah Thompson, Hugo; fourth: Cole Smith, Boswell; fifth: Courtney Rhodes, Caney.

Brahman Influence

Breed Champion - Eric Shaw, Antlers

Reserve Breed Champion – Eric Shaw, Antlers

Class I first: Eric Shaw, Antlers; second: Aaron Purkins, Caddo. Class II first: Eric Shaw, Antlers; second: Eric Shaw, Antlers; third: Ace Lee Pittman, Wright City.

AOB (All Other Breeds) Division

Breed Champion – Keenan Gibson, Quinton Reserve Breed Champion – Kelsey Crane, Wister

Class I first: Keenan Gibson, Quinton; second: Luke Serner, Durant; third: Brandon Johnson, Stigler; fourth: Heather Blakely, Calvin; fifth: Kareesa Kennedy, Talihina; sixth: Kacee Knight, Le-Flore; seventh: Mark Goodrich, Talihina.

Class II first: Taylor Payne, Soper; second: Josie Redwine, Boswell; third: Juan Lopez, Hugo; fourth: Matthew Delozier, Haworth; fifth: Katherine Goodman, Talihina.

Class III first: Laramie Beal, Coalgate; second: Cory Traylor, Talihina; third: Amanda Pulchey, McAlester; fourth: Kelbie Kennedy, Albion.

Class IV first: Kelsey Crane, Wister; second: Cody Wilson, Hartshorne; third: Krissy Langley, Soper; fourth: Allan Crase, Bokoshe; fifth: Eli Hohn, Antlers.

Class V first: Sarah McGee, Wilburton; second: Allan Crase, Bokoshe; third: Tanya Smith, Talihina.

– Steer –

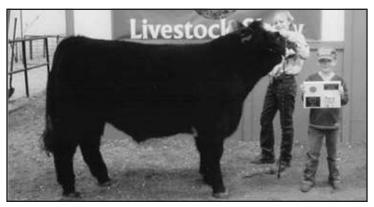
Grand Champion Steer – Whitlie Curliss, Haileyville Reserve Grand Champion Steer – Laramie Nichols, Haileyville

English Division

Breed Champion – Keenan Gibson, Quinton Reserve Breed Champion – Taylor Reasoner, Kinta

Class I first: Keenan Gibson, Quinton; second: Taylor Reasoner, er, Calera. Kinta; third: Jeff Roebucks, Coalgate.

Reasoner, Kinta.



Continental Division Breed Champion Steer – Timber Stephens, Atoka.



Continental Division Reserve Breed Champion Steer – Mason Jones, Calera.

Class II first: Laramie Beal, Coalgate; second Gary Dewitt, Wapanucka; third: Emilia Lopez, Hugo.

Continental Division

Breed Champion – Timber Stephens, Atoka

Reserve Breed Champion – Mason Jones, Calera Class I first: Jayce Galloway, Haworth.

Class II first: Dylan Reason, Kinta; second: Benton Ray, Hugo.

Class III first: Gail James, Keota; second: Kelbie Kennedy, Talihina; third: Kason Ross, Keota.

Class IV first: Timber Stephens, Atoka; second: Amy Teel, Keota; third: Matt Jones, Calera; fourth: Tara Gwinn, Coalgate.

Class V first: Mason Jones, Calera; second: Shayne Shoopman, Colbert; third: Chelsea Wade, Soper; fourth: Randi Staton, Hugo.

AOB Division

Breed Champion – Whitlie Curliss, Haileyville

Reserve Breed Champion – Laramie Nichols, Haileyville Class I first: Jacky Marshall, Idabel.

Class II first: Jayce Galloway, Haworth; second: Ashlyn Scott, Soper; third: Jake Ary, Kinta.

Class III first: Britany Barker, Boswell; second: Cody Wilson, Hartshorne; third: Shayne Shoopman, Colbert; Kagney Scarberry, Talihina.

Class IV first: Whitlie Curliss, Haileyville; second: Clint Crane, Wister; third: Lauren Thomas, Calera.

Class V first: Laramie Nichols, Haileyville; second: Leslie Carter, Calera.

10th Annual Gathering of California Choctaws

Choice hotel	Mark your calendars!	Camping at Camp Okihi
for accommodations Holiday Inn Select	The 10th Annual Gathering	Request early for a space
in the heart of downtown Bakersfield, California, is located at 801 Truxton Ave. Connected to the Convention Center and adjacent to the Cen-	of California Choctaw people will be held May 7 and 8 We will be back at Camp Okihi in Choctaw Valley	I wish to register for RV or Tent Camping: Name
tennial Gardens, the Holiday Inn Select is also within walk- ing distance to several locally owned restaurants, antique	near Bakersfield, California (Same as gatherings 2001-2003) $\Delta \Delta \Delta$	Address
shops, the Amtrak Station and more. For the Gatherings in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, the Okla Chahta staff has negoti- ated a great rate of \$74 which	A traditional Choctaw Wedding Ceremony is being planned by Elijah Voliva and Karen Hartsfield-Cihal and will be held May 7 at the Gathering. The ceremony will be narrated by Curtis and Terry Billy	Phone E-mail
includes one free breakfast buffet. Please make reservations now. Secure your price – call the hotel now at 661-323-1900 to	with Olin Williams performing the nuptials $\Delta \Delta \Delta$ The Bake Off Contest	I need Tent Camping space (number of tents) RV (size & type)
make reservations. Please be sure to ask for the Okla Chahta or Choctaw rate. The hotel is holding the blocks of rooms	was great fun last year – let's do it again! We need lots more to participate so bring in those goodies. There are prizes, fun and awards! I wish to register for the Bake Off Contest. This was a lot of fun for both those who	
until April 15. The hotel's toll- free 800 number will say the hotel is full –you must call the local number. Driving direc- tions: Exit off Hwy. 99 onto	entered and those who got to be the official tasters. Please join the fun! E-mail your entry to: Theresa @ oklachahta@igalaxy.net or snail mail to Okla Chahta, P.O. Box 80862, Bakersfield, CA 93380	All camping is for self-contained only. No hookups. Tent fee: \$10.00 one night (Friday or Saturday) or \$15 for both Friday and Saturday – fee is per tent charge
California Ave, continue east on California to Chester Ave., exit north on Chester to Truxton Ave., turn right on Truxton to the hotel.	NameAddress	RV fee: \$15.00 for Friday or Saturday or \$20.00 for both Friday and Saturday – fee is per unit charge YOU MUST REGISTER AND PAY IN ADVANCE AS SPACE IS LIMITED
Recommended if the Holi- day Inn Select is full include: Clarion Hotel, 3540 Rosedale Hwy., Bakersfield, phone 661-	$\Delta \Delta \Delta$ Please pre-register for the FREE Saturday meal:	 **If you cancel you must do so 2 weeks prior to get a refund so we can open to someone else** Obtain your placard this is validation and must be placed in easy view in window or on outside of tent.
326-1111. Princess Pageant Running for Okla Chahta Clan of California's Princess is easy.	Name Address	You must register/pay in advance as space is limited. Anyone trying to camp that has not paid in advance will be fined and asked to leave by park rangers. Please make checks payable to
It is a good way to learn your heritage and traditions of the Choctaw people. You will be representing what is really royal	Phone #E-mail Are you a tribal member?	Okla Chahta Clan of California, Inc. and mail to PO Box 80862, Bakersfield, CA 93380 All campers must be packed
- your Choctaw pride. If you are interested in running for the 2005 Okla Chahta Princess, please e-mail Victoria Harrison	Those who are attending with you	and off the grounds by 3 p.m. Sunday We would appreciate it if you do not bring your pets – pets wi not be able to "join" the activities, meaning they cannot be in
at princessvixeypooh @sbcglobal.net or P.O. Box 80862, Bakersfield, CA 93384. You must be age 25 or younger,	Name Adult/teen/childTribal? Name Adult/teen/childTribal? Name Adult/teen/childTribal? Name Adult/teen/childTribal?	the arena or other program areas. They may be kept in your camping area, but California has a strict leash law on all pets The Okla Chahta Gathering is a family event – no alcohol or drugs allowed –
with no children and unmarried. Past princesses and past contes- tants who ran, can run again.	Name Adult/teen/child Tribal? The Gathering is for Choctaws and their family members.	For more information on the Gathering, please call 661-292-6552

Wild onion story



By Stella Long, Storyteller

Spring is in the air! Daffodils are blooming. The bears have awakened from their winter sleep. March is a time for all good men to break ground for planting. But for most Choctaw people, it's time to head for the woods for wild onions.

Choctaws will not tell where they dig for their onions for fear their onion patch might be

raided. They are polite when you ask, but they will not give you a direct answer.

One day, I was zooming down I-40 with my friend, Luksi, and spotted the Cracker Barrel place where we stopped to eat breakfast. We had finished eating and sat sipping our last cup of coffee when we overheard two Indian men talking near our table. I said, "They must be Creeks. I heard the name, Chebon, and they're talking about Creek Nation."

Soon we heard the younger man ask the older one if he could have his gravy. Luksi said, "You think I should give him my gravy? I haven't touched it." I said, "Sure, I'll throw in a biscuit!"

But Luksi had second thoughts and said, "They might think I'm flirting!" I said, "There's no flirting about it, especially with water gravy. When you see a hungry Indian, always share your gravy. Besides, they might know where we can find onions."

When we got up to leave, I asked the men, "Do you know where we can find wild onions?" The young man pointed with his lips and said, "Over the mountain." The older man said, "They're still under the ground."

The gravy sharing didn't work after all! Creeks and probably all the rest of them aren't talking either.

Does anyone know where two old Choctaw women can find wild onions?

Phase I Language Class begins in Muskogee

A Phase I Choctaw Language Class began February 10, instructed by Abe Frazier every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Muscogee Indian Community Center, 111 S. Virginia, Muskogee, Oklahoma. The beginner course provides an introduction to the Choctaw alphabet, numbers, history, culture, learning how to spell and read Choctaw sentences as well as reading the Choctaw Dictionary. Participants are still being accepted. Please call Abe Frazier at 918-685-8384.

Annual Gospel Singing, Wild Onion Dinner

The Hampton Chapel Church, two miles East of Spencerville, Oklahoma, is holding its annual Gospel Singing and Wild Onion Dinner at 5:30 p.m. March 19. Emceeing are Jim Bruner and Ben Alexander. Everyone is welcome. Please bring your lawn chairs.

Stickball clinics scheduled in Broken Bow

Kapucha Washoha - Stickball Clinic - is scheduled March 19 and April 2 at Broken Bow. For more information, please contact Victoria Collins at 918-567-2633 or vista@choctawnation.com.



U.S. Hwy. 69/75 Durant, OK 1-580-920-0160 Located Next to Choctaw Casino

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Booger Barter Production and Choctaw Casino Resort present: "Rope for the Dodge Truck" – Admission Free



9 & 10 Michael Akins – Extreme Roping

Durant Main Street presents Bull Mania '05, starts 7:00 p.m. Admission \$10 at Gate • \$5 Children 13 & Under • Free Children Under 2 For information, contact Justin Dow 580-916-0463

28-30

16

2&3

Southeastern Oklahoma State University presents: Second Bi-Annual Southeastern Stampede Rodeo

WATCH FOR GRAND OPENING!



New and Exciting Casino with 300 Electronic Gaming Machines located within the lobby of the Coliseum!



Get Your Western Attire Here! Western Wear, Ropes, Equestrian Equipment, and much more.



Diana Dukes Shea of Descanso, California, is pictured with Chief Gregory E. Pyle in San Diego.



Twins Lois Allen and Louise Sharp enjoy the gathering.



Christina Compelube of San Diego attends the meeting with her mother, Mary Compelube, of Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma.





Chief Pyle is pictured here with George Beames.



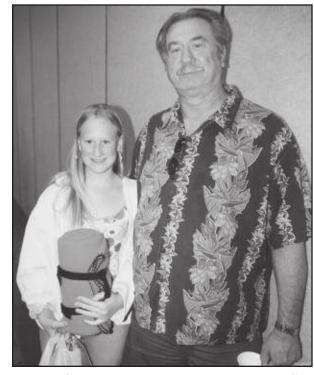
Joel Harkins of Orange talks to Chief Pyle about his family's allottment land in Tupelo, Oklahoma.



Esther Lee Baker Abrahamo, formerly of McCurtain County, has been a Pastor of the Native American Ministry in San Diego for 15 years. She attended school at OPC and Caadland



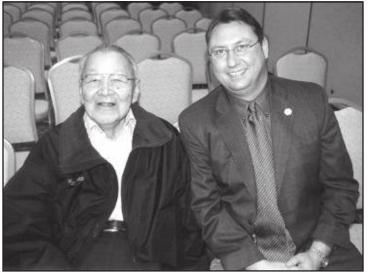
John Rader has brought home 22 gold medals, 12 silver and one bronze in his ten-year career in the Golden Age Game for Veterans 55 and older. He told Chief Pyle he competes in two bicycle races and two swim events.



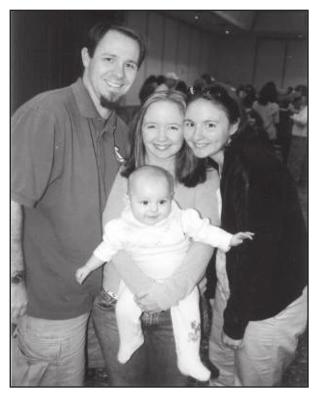
Larry Carty and daughter, Briana, attend the San Diego meeting. Briana won an oramge fleece blanket.



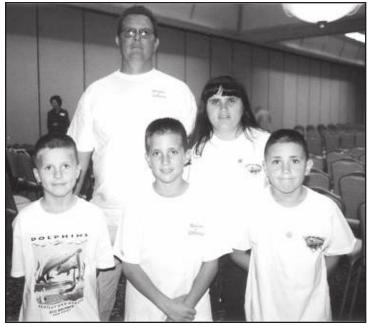
Enjoying the afternoon are Mary Louise Higgins, Bill Moore, Chief Pyle, Betty Zimmerman, Tina Cullores and Ali Cullores.



Posing for a picture in California are, in back, Gary Wilson, Dorinda Faaborg and Kelly Phillips-Knufken; in front, Ernie Black, Linda Pennington, Edie Watkins and Elizabeth Meyer. They trace their heritage to original enrollee Myrtle Crain.



Siblings Brandon Spalding, Brianne Spalding and Holly Daque are having fun with 5 1/2-month-old Jordan Ranando, Holly's daughter.



Dustin, Frank and Gabriel Pike along with parents Frank and Delores are among the first to arrive at the San Diego meeting.

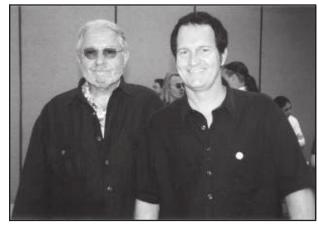
Goodland.



Ten-year-old Bradyn Breske of Coronado drew a picture of the Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation for Chief Pyle.



Patrick and Sarah McCormick of Winnetka, California.



Father and son share the same name – George Willis. The younger George works on special effects for movies, including the hits such as "Titanic," "Apollo 13," and "I Robot." The elder George is a world-famous artist.

Moses Lewis, shown here with Housing Executive Rusty Sossamon, will be 91 on September 14.



Zachary James draws door prize tickets for Special Projects Executive Sue Folsom who announces the winning number.



Brothers Fred and Johnny Pierce are with Fred's daughter, Brenda, and Anna Pierce.



Artist David Jones presents this Veterans Honor Pipe to the Choctaw Nation to be displayed in the tribal museum. The pipe honors Choctaw warriors of all branches of the military. Chief Gregory E. Pyle thanks Mr. Jones publicly at the recent meeting in Phoenix.

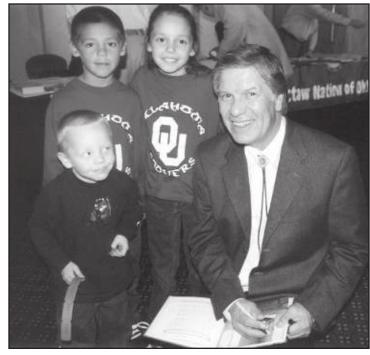


Adolphus Lee was born in Gracemont, Oklahoma, and now lives in Buckeye, Arizona. He and Chief Pyle visited at the Phoenix meeting.

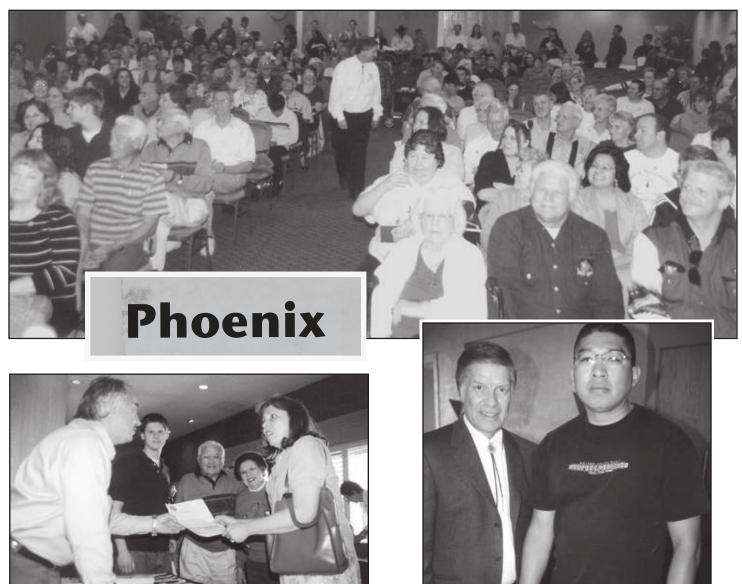




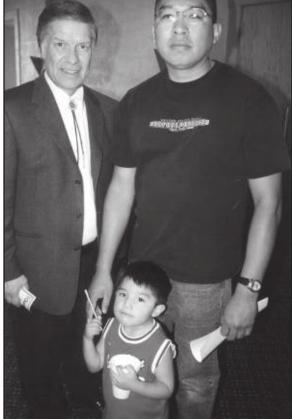
Ninety-year-old Frances Trammell and John Trammell are pictured in Phoenix with Chief Pyle. The Trammell family lives in Ajo, close to the Mexico border.



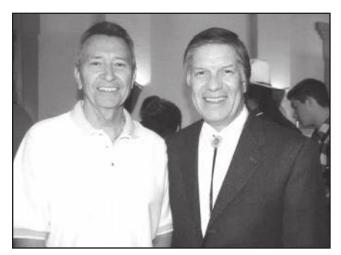
Chief Pyle is autographing a copy of "The Choctaw Nation," by Allison Lassieur for Macie John on behalf of the Holloway School. Taylor, Macie and Patrick came to the Phoenix meeting with their parents, Patrick and Karie John. The family is originally from Idabel.



Director Larry Wade hands out scholarship information to Tim Hunter Oyen and his mom, Marilyn Hunter. Tim's grandparents, S.M. and Mary Lou Hunter are also interested in learn-



Joshua Ibarra is holding his three-month-old son, Landon.



Tom Gaylor told Chief Pyle that his good friend, Gary Anderson, wasn't able to come to the meeting but sends his greetings.



Twins Caleb and Jeremy Baker are pictured with parents Brad and Kim. The boys will be two on September 24.

ing about his opportunities for higher education.



Mary Shepherd, Retha Hudgens, Lola Crane and Bob Kane are pictured with Elsie Gregory Freeman, who turned 90 on February 2. She was born in Pocola and now lives in Arizona.



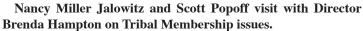
Alfredo Villa, Amanda Rios, John Erickson and Lena Erickson all picked up information on the Choctaw language and history from Curtis Billy.

John Watson and his three-year-old son, David, has a photo made with Chief Pyle at Phoenix.



Chief Pyle is pictured with J.P. Hogan, Cathy Rae Hogan Coen and Tina Hogan Webber.







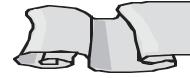
Chief Pyle is holding Ashton Bowers, three months old. His mom, Leslie, brought Ashton to the Phoenix meeting.



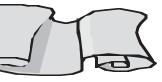
Katosha Belvin Nakai is pictured with her seven-month-old daughter, Ellisia, and husband, Errol. Katosha served as Miss Choctaw Nation in 1989-90.



Charlotte Hopper draws for door prizes as Nutrition Director Oneida Winship holds the basket of tickets.



OBITUARIES



Rena (Noahubi) Jefferson

Rena Jefferson, 82, of Wright City, Oklahoma, passed away December 25, 2004, at her residence. She was born July 29, 1922, in Bethel, Oklahoma.

Rena was a homemaker. She enjoyed fishing, singing and rodeos. Rena was affiliated with the Presbyterian faith and was a lifetime resident of McCurtain County.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Johnnie Jefferson, in 1993; a son, Jeffley Jefferson, in 2001; and a daughter, Diana Jefferson, in 1982.

Survivors include a son, Wayne Jefferson of Dallas, Texas; three daughters, Kathleen Jefferson of Idabel, Oklahoma, Clarissa Milam of Dardanelle, Arkansas, and Leila Jefferson of Russellville, Arkansas; eight grandchildren, Allen, Mike and Joy Boyd, Rita Cole, JoAnna Jefferson, Teresa Rice, and Jason and Sarah Milam; several greatgrandchildren; several other relatives and a host of friends.

Wesley Otho Thomas

Wesley Otho Thomas, 72, of Katy, Texas, passed away December 6, 2004, in Houston, Texas. He was born January 12, 1932, in Lindsay, Oklahoma, to George Buchanan and Otha Delight (Robins) Thomas.

He married Mamye Jo Waggoner on November 26, 1954, in Barker, Texas. He lived in Katy for 32 years before moving to Pattison in 1992. Mr. Thomas served in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1951 to 1954. He was one of the first group of volunteers for the Katy ambulance and served for many years. He was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and retired from the Katy Volunteer Fire Department.

He was an honorary member of the Katy Chapter FFA and a lifetime member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. He worked the Katy Rodeo every year except the two when he was in Korea.

He was a past president of the Youth Rodeo Association, charter member of the Houston Classic Car Club and pitcher of a softball team until he was 60 years old. He was very proud to be a card-carrying Choctaw and was a member of the All-Around Cowboy Church in Sealy. One of his first jobs was as a rodeo clown and bullfighter. He was most proud of this.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Oberia "Dude" Morgan.

Survivors include his wife, Mamye Jo Thomas of Pattison; children, George Wayne Thomas of Pattison, Tammy Payne of Brookshire, and Barrett and Patti Thomas of Richmond; grandchildren, George Thomas Jr., Barbara Thomas, Wesley and Vickie Taylor, Whitney Taylor, Jessica Thomas, Laura Thomas and Wesley Barrett Thomas II; great-grandchildren, Landon Taylor, Wesley Taylor, Amy Taylor, and Zoe Taylor; sisters, John Nell Monigold of Katy and Cora Lea Davis and husband, Jerry, of Katy; brother-in-law, W.E. "Billy" Morgan of Katy, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jack Louis Gooding

Jack Louis Gooding, 77, passed away February 9, 2005, at his home. He was born November 8, 1927, in Paris, Texas, the only child of Louis LaFlore and Carrie (Miller) Gooding of Valliant, Oklahoma.

In 1943, the family moved to Ontario, California, where Jack attended Chaffee High School and Chaffee College. After college, he was employed by Southern California Gas Co. He retired from the company in 1989, after completing 40 years of service.



John Granville McIntosh

John Granville McIntosh, 81, passed away January 5, 2005, in Norwalk, California. He was born April 4, 1923, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Mr. McIntosh served his country faithfully in the Navy Submarine Service. Later he began a career in public education and taught for 25 years, working primarily for ABC Unified School District. During this time John also owned his own film processing lab, Bison Laboratories, filming high school and college football and basketball games. He operated this business for over 20 years.

Survivors include his loving wife of 31 years, Ruth Anne McIntosh; his five children, Bill, Susie, Christine, Jeannie and Mary Jane; six stepchildren; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his beloved daughter, Lucinda.

Donald Lee "Porky" Vanhoose Jr.

Donald Lee Vanhoose Jr., affectionately called "Porky," 27, of Gillham, Arkansas, passed away October 26, 2004. He was born August 28, 1977.

He was a foreman at Pilgrim's Pride and was currently working for Schueck Corp. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing all sports, four-wheeling, and spending time with his family and friends, but most of all, Porky was devoted to his sons.

He was preceded in death by a son, Dakota Lee Vanhoose, in 1996.

Survivors include two sons, Dillon Lane Vanhoose and Hunter Ray Vanhoose, both of DeQueen, Arkansas; a stepson, Garrett Sullivan of DeQueen; his mother and stepfather, Velma and Pat Whisenhunt of Gillham; his father, Donald Vanhoose Sr. of Eagletown, Oklahoma; two brothers and sisters-in-law, David and Melissa Vanhoose of Hayworth, Oklahoma, and Greg and Lisa Vanhoose of Mt. Pleasant, Texas; his grandparents, Wilson and Deloris Taylor of Sobol, Oklahoma; great-grandmother, Ida Taylor of Sobol; two nephews, Sylace Vanhoose and Devyn Jones; four nieces, Chelsie Vanhoose, Christian Vanhoose, Kimberlain Vanhoose and Ashley Ballew.

Eunice Inez Gray

Eunice Inez Gray, 79, of Denison, Texas, passed away February 13, 2005, at Homestead Nursing Home in Denison. She was born June 2, 1925, in Tuskahoma, Oklahoma, to Edmond Calvin and Nora (Frazier) Calvin.

She attended school in Tuskahoma, married James Lindell Gray, and lived in Southern Oklahoma most of her life. Eunice was very proud of her Choctaw heritage and her membership in the Choctaw Nation. She was also proud of her family and checked in on them often. Eunice enjoyed watching westerns on TV and visiting with family and friends. She especially enjoyed family reunions. She was of the Baptist faith and will be greatly missed.

Survivors include her sons, Tommy Gray, Jimmy Gray, Jerry Gray, and Terry Gray; her daughters, Gloria Gray, Sherry Word and Connie Thomas; eleven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and a host of friends.

Ruby (Watson) Hibdon

Ruby (Watson) Hibdon, 100, of Pilot Point, Texas, passed away December 20, 2004. She was born June 2, 1904, in Page, Oklahoma, to Burk and Sarah (Brewer) Davis.

She married Albert Leonard Gilliland on December 12, 1926. Mr.

Rachelle Knicole Easlon

Rachelle Knicole Easlon, 13, of DeQueen, Arkansas, passed away January 11, 2005, at her home. She was born February 24, 1991, in Talihina, Oklahoma, to Richard and Patricia (Bohanan) Easlon. Rachelle was a student in the Horatio School System and a member of the Church of Christ of DeQueen. She enjoyed basketball, softball, cheerleading, hunting and riding four-wheelers. Survivors include her parents; a sis-



ter, Kelsie Hannah Easlon of DeQueen; grandparents, Viola Bohanan of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, and Victor Bohanan of Oklahoma City; several aunts and uncles, Steve Bohanan of Boswell, Oklahoma, Danny Easlon, Donny Easlon, Vickie and Junior Dunn, all of DeQueen, and Valorie and Donnie Minor of Eagletown, Oklahoma; a great-aunt, Verda Simmons of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and a number of cousins.

Alice Dianne (Bradberry) Honeycutt

Alice Dianne (Bradberry) Honeycutt, longtime resident of Glasgow, Kentucky, passed away November 22, 2004, at Greenview Hospital in Bowling Green, Kentucky. She was born September 18, 1938, at home on the family farm in the community of Little River, Arkansas, near Dell. She was the second of three children. Her parents were William Jean Bradberry and Sydney Bond Bradberry.

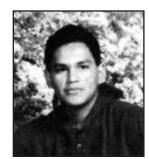
In 1945, when Dianne was eight years old, her family moved to Coolidge, Arizona, where her father owned a grocery store. One year later the family moved to Los Alamos, New Mexico, where her father worked on the government project there. She enjoyed going on fishing and camping trips with her family in New Mexico. She was a good student and enjoyed all aspects of school. In 1950 the family moved back to the Arkansas farm. Dianne graduated from Dell High School in 1956. She graduated from Arkansas State University with a degree in Elementary Education in 1960.

She taught in the Corning Arkansas School System for several years. Her son, Jim Bob Clement, was born there to Dianne and her husband, Jim Clement. Eventually the family moved to Glasgow, Kentucky. She loved Glasgow, the schools, her family, and many friends there. Dianne taught first grade in Glasgow for many years and retired from that school system. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church where she sang in the choir.

Dianne married Charles Honeycutt in 1988. They lived a very happy and active life among their families and friends in the town they loved. She loved animals, domestic and wild. In her youth she had several pet cats that she protected and gave tender loving care. Her family always had dogs that lived in the house. In Corning, she had a pet raccoon and in Glasgow she always had cats and dogs as an important part of her life. Being a grade school teacher and mother, she spent most of her life administering to the welfare and education of children. A little over a week before her final illness, a cerebral stroke, she became the proud great-grandmother of a darling baby girl.

Dianne was followed in death on December 2, 2004, by her husband, Charles Honeycutt of Glasgow, Kentucky, who passed away at the Medical Center at Bowling Green. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Robert Jean Bradberry.

Survivors include a son, James Robert "Jim Bob" Clement of Glasgow; grandchildren, Tara Beth Clement and Jon Michael Clement, both of Scottsville, Kentucky; great-granddaughter, Kenley Averyana Kirk of Scottsville; brother, James Bradberry of Los Alamos; and two stepsons, Wayne Honeycutt of Glenburn, Maine, and Wen-



He was a member of the California National Guard from 1947 to 1952 and was



on active duty in Japan and Korea. Before going to Japan, he married Kathrine Mitts Pratt in San Bernardino, California. After discharge, the family made its home in Upland, California, and Jack returned to his job with the gas company. In 1963, he was transferred to Ventura as the customer service representative for Ventura County.

Jack was an enthusiastic community volunteer. He was active for ten years in the Boy Scouts of America as an assistant scout master. He served on the Campfire Girls' Counsel, the International Conference of Building Officials and was a committed volunteer for Food-Share.

Upon retirement, he found a wonderful outlet for his love of teaching children at the Ventura County Museum of History and Art. He was storyteller, craftsman, historian and tour guide to the children who visited the museum. He was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura.

Survivors include his wife; daughter, Barbara Gooding and husband, Anthony Vann; sons, Paul and wife, Candy, and David and wife, Gail; grandchildren, Jason, Derek and wife, Lisa, and Ellery Milne, Molly, Ryan and Sarah Gooding, and Catherine, Ray and Helen Bartholomew, and three great-grandchildren, Tyan and Ava Milne and Neilan Gudino.

Josephine (Collins) Butler

Josephine (Collins) Butler, 67, of Idabel, Oklahoma, passed away January 7, 2005, at the Choctaw County Hospital in Hugo, Oklahoma. She was born April 14, 1937, in Idabel to Ed and Annie (Belvin) Collins

Josephine was one of the last graduates of Wheelock Academy in 1954. She was a member of the Kullituklo United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by husbands Hubert Butler in 1995 and John Willie in 2001; her parents; two brothers, James and Joe; and three sisters, Eunice Stewart, Minerva Byrum and Margaret Bedeau.

Survivors include three sons and one daughter-in-law, Edwin Willie of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Ralph and Dawn Willie of Chicago, Illinois, and Kennedy Willie of Idabel; two stepsons; two daughters, Lora Williams and Naomi Willie, both of Idabel; two stepdaughters; six grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; numerous step-grandchildren, stepgreat-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Vonita Lucille Samuels

Vonita Lucille Samuels, 81, of Guthrie, Oklahoma, passed away February 12, 2005, in Yukon, Oklahoma. She was born January 5, 1924, in Smithville, Oklahoma, to Iston and Laura McCoy.

Lucille was a faithful member of the First Assembly of God Church. She married LeRoy Samuels in 1946.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and one sister, Sadie Armstrong.

Survivors include one sister, Frances Ellen Allen of Yukon, Oklahoma; four nephews, Glen Pugh and Jackie Dumont, both of Guthrie, Douglas Allen of Mustang, Oklahoma, and Don Allen of Oklahoma City, and three nieces, Mildred Euliss of Apache Junction, Arizona, Vickie Sheffield of Oklahoma City, and Brenda Sykes of Guthrie.

Gilliland passed away in 1952. She married John Clarence Hibdon on April 3, 1962. He passed away in 1982. Mrs. Hibdon was a homemaker and a member of Antioch Baptist Church.

She was also preceded in death by one son, Wesley Gilliland, and two stepsons, W.C. Hibdon and Earl Hibdon.

Survivors include two sons, Bailey Wayne Gilliland and Johnny Ray Gilliland, both of Pilot Point; three daughters, Lottie Marks of San Marcos, Texas, Julia Dane of Pilot Point and Frances Taylor of Carrollton, Texas; 15 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

Henry Wesley Jr.

Henry Wesley Jr., 74, of McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away January 28, 2005, at a local nursing home. He was born September 10, 1930, in Blanco, Oklahoma, to Henry and Planna (Ward) Wesley.

He graduated from Pittsburg High School and joined the U.S. Army in 1951. He served in the Korean War, fought at Pork Chop Hill, and was awarded two Bronze Stars.

After his discharge, Mr. Wesley attended Eastern Oklahoma State College. He married Sherry Stevens and they lived in Oklahoma City where he worked as a truck driver until his retirement. She preceded him in death in 1992.

He returned to McAlester where he lived the remainder of his life. He was a member of the Brushey Missionary Baptist Church and taught Sunday school for several years. He was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1098.

He was also preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, William Taft Wesley and Johnny Wesley.

Survivors include four sisters and a brother-in-law, Mamie Billy of McAlester, Josephine and Louis Mitchell of Midwest City, Oklahoma, Ruby Manor of McAlester and Edith Billy of Blanco, Oklahoma; a stepson, David Stevens of Lead Hill, Arkansas; a grandson, Nathan Stevens of Lead Hill, Arkansas; sister-in-law, Billie Hammett of Lead Hills, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Kenneth H. Morgan

Kenneth H. Morgan passed away February 15, 2005, at his home in El Reno, Oklahoma. He was born August 7, 1921, in Ada, Oklahoma, the son of Maurice and Anna Lee Morgan.

His family moved to Oklahoma City in 1929 where he attended school and was graduated from Classen High School in 1940.

He and Anne Weicker Davis were married on November 14, 1942, in Hollywood, California. Kenneth served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific in World War II and in the Korean War, including Wonsan Harbor. Following his war service, he and Anne lived in California where he was self-employed as a general contractor until his retirement in Mendocino, California. There he became a Master Mason and a member of the Lions Club. In 1994, they returned to Oklahoma City and moved to El Reno in 2004.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Harold, and sister, Naomi Ragsdale.

Survivors include his wife of the home; son, Ken A. Morgan and wife, Judy, of Oklahoma City; daughter, Frances G. Middlesworth and husband, William D., of El Reno; granddaughter, Michele Peterson and husband, Matthew J., of Oklahoma City; grandson, Michael DuBois and wife, Donna, of Roswell, Georgia; granddaughter, Ensign Molly and husband, Ensign Jerry Cook, of Gaithersburg, Maryland; grandson, Glen Morgan of Sacramento, California; sister, Virginia and husband, Robert I. Carter, of Oklahoma City, and five great-grandchildren.

dell Honeycutt of Glasgow.

Inez Wilkins

Inez Wilkins, 78, of Hugo, Oklahoma, passed away November 21, 2004, at Choctaw Memorial Hospital. She was born August 21, 1926, in Hugo, the daughter of John and Carrie Burton.

Inez lived all of her life in Hugo. She loved reading her Bible and Sunday school lesson, being with family, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends. She was a member of the Church of God, Country Gals Extension Club and VFW Auxiliary.



Inez had been a resident of Golden Age Home for two years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three husbands, a son-inlaw, grandson, stepson, three brothers, and a sister.

Survivors include two daughters, Linda and Lee Knight of Hugo and Judy Alder of Greenville, Texas; a stepson, William Himonubbe; stepdaughter, Minnie White; three grandchildren, Rickey and Stacey Knight, Donnie and Jacque Knight and Christie and Thomas Hood; three great-grandchildren, Sha Ward of Hugo, Gage Knight of Milburn, Oklahoma, and MaKayla Hood of Hugo; and numerous stepgrandchildren, step-great-grandchildren and step-great-great-grandchildren.

Freeny F. Hopkins

Freeny F. Hopkins, 87, of Goldsby, Oklahoma, passed away October 20, 2004, at his home with his three daughters at his bedside. He was born September 8, 1917, in Blanchard, Oklahoma, to Ernest and Edna (Freeny) Hopkins. His mother was an original enrollee of the tribe. He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage.

Mr. Hopkins was a World War II veteran, having served in the Navy CBs. He married his high school sweetheart, Fern Posey, on October 5, 1935, in Norman, Oklahoma. Mr. Hopkins was a farmer and rancher. He enjoyed fishing and loved his land. His family was very important to him. He was a member of the Noble, Oklahoma, Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, Henry and Fanny Freeny, and brother, Jack Hopkins.

Survivors include his wife, Fern, who followed him in death on October 24; daughters, Hilda Stoddard and husband, Kirk, and Ruth Hopkins, all of Washington, Oklahoma, and Lue McClanahan and husband, Mac, of Oklahoma City; sisters, Ruth Finley of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Holly Savage of Anadarko, Oklahoma; sisterin-law, Nadine Hopkins of Idabel, Oklahoma; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Jimmy "Bo" Coleman

Jimmy "Bo" Coleman, 49, of Muldrow, Oklahoma, passed away December 20, 2004, in Shreveport, Louisiana.

He was employed by WalMart, an Army veteran and a member of the Choctaw Veterans Association.

Survivors include his father and stepmother, Jimmy and Sue Coleman of Roland, Oklahoma; two sisters, Tresa Daniel and Beverly Clay, both of Roland; two stepsisters, Debbie Helms of Greenwood, Arkansas, and Carolyn Harper of Otis, Oregon; and a stepbrother, James Burns of Ft. Smith, Arkansas.