



BISHINIK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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May 2004 Issue

Senior Citizen Day is May 26 at Sallisaw

The Choctaw Nation's 20th annual Senior Citizen Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, at the Choctaw Blue Ribbon Downs in Sallisaw. Activities begin at 10 a.m. and include a free lunch, door prizes, singing contest, hat contests and a name tag contest. For transportation, please contact your area field office.

District 6 Election set May 22

An election will be held May 22 to select a Tribal Council Person for District 6 of the Choctaw Nation. Candidates for the position are Joe Ed Coley of Wilburton, Floyd Gene Davis of Talihina, Carolyn Moore Elgin of Talihina, Fred Franklin James of Wilburton and Allen Lane Lyons of Red Oak.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at four voting boxes in District 6 - Red Oak, Wilburton, Quinton and Buffalo Valley.

Tribal members registered to vote in District 6 who live outside the Choctaw Nation will get a ballot in the mail to mark and mail back. Choctaw Tribal members who live inside the boundaries will have the opportunity to vote on May 22 at the polls or they may request a mailed ballot.

Please contact the Choctaw Nation Election Board at (580) 924-8280 or 1-800-522-6170 for more information.

**DISTRICT 6
LATIMER COUNTY
PRECINCTS**
- Wilburton -
Old Choctaw Center
(918) 465-2389
- Buffalo Valley -
School
(918) 522-4426
- Red Oak -
Jr. High School
(918) 745-2426
- Quinton -
Senior Citizen Building
(918) 469-2259

Council approves funding

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in Regular Session April 10 to approve additional funding for the 2004 Swine/Beef Show. The tremendous participation in this year's show increased the cost an extra \$1,892.23 above the original budget. The Council were unanimous in their approval, citing that the students' interest and participation were greatly appreciated.

A budget for "Leadership Through Tradition" camps was approved. Two camps will be held this summer at Jones Academy.

Also approved were funding for Literacy Council; submission of CARES grant application, and continuing the Projects with Industry and a Grant Continuation application for Tribal Victim Assistance Program.

The Tribal Council also voted to place Councilperson Delton Cox in the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Enterprise Committee, a position previously held by the late Randle Durant.

School programs honored at JOM Banquet

During the annual Oklahoma JOM Conference Banquet March 24 in Tulsa, McAlester Public School's Johnson O'Malley Program was recognized by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for its exemplary work with students.

JOM student enrollment at McAlester represents 16% of the total student body. To serve the students at their school they have implemented an academic/cultural enrichment program to provide JOM students the opportunity to become more culturally and educationally aware of their heritage and cultural opportunities.

The tutoring program helps students by providing the appropriate services with emphasis on one-to-one tutoring or small group tutoring.

McAlester's program is aimed at reaching all students within the school system through tutoring, school supplies, cultural presentations, field trips, summer schools, summer camps, educational testing fees and senior recognition.

Members of the parent committee are Teresa Kennieutubbe, Walter Amos, Nonie Byington, Charles and Vanessa Allen.



Accepting the award from Choctaw Nation JOM Director Rebecca Clapp are Larry Amos, McAlester's JOM Coordinator; Teresa Kenieutubbe, Chairperson; Nonie Byington, Secretary; Walter Amos, Vice Chairperson, and Tutors Chewelah Fry and Serena Underwood.



Pictured with JOM Art Contest winner Chandra Leming are Rebecca Clapp, JOM Director; Councilman Perry Thompson, Neal Hawkins, JOM Assistant Director; Councilman James Frazier; Councilman Ted Dosh; Councilman Bob Pate; Sherri Sallee, JOM Claims Eligibility Officer and Secretary, and Councilman Delton Cox.

Choctaw student Chandra Leming is first-place JOM Art Contest winner

Chandra Leming, 18, a senior at Jenks High School, was chosen as the winner of the JOM Art Contest for the State of Oklahoma. The piece will represent Oklahoma Tribal JOM Programs at the National JOM Art Competition later this year. Chandra has applied for admission to the Fall 2004 Session at the University of Oklahoma where she plans to major in art.

Chandra is proud to be the great-granddaughter of Sarah Ella Vaughn, an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation. She is especially excited that she will be old enough to vote in the next tribal election. She is the daughter of retired entertainer/filmmaker W. Vaughn Leming of Jenks and photographer Donna Leming of Tulsa.

Head Start student saves lives

Four-year-old Jessica Barnes was awakened at close to 4 o'clock on the morning of March 31 to find the bedroom that she shared with her younger brother, Darren, age two, in flames. She raced into her parents' bedroom and woke her father, telling him that the room was on fire and that he needed to go and get her brother.

Clint and Amanda Barnes quickly went to the bedroom and rescued their son and managed to also save two family pets before their entire house went up in flames. The family lost all of their possessions in the house fire, but because Jessica had visited the fire department on a Head Start field trip with her classmates and teachers, and remembered what they had told her and the others that day, the family got out with no lives lost and no injuries to any of them.

Jessica is a student of the Choctaw Nation Head Start Center in Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Her class had visited the fire department on a field trip earlier and she remembered what the firefighters had told them about



Four-year-old Jessica Barnes receives an Award for Heroism and a new "Dora the Explorer" bedding set from Councilman Mike Amos.

what to do if their house ever caught on fire.

Jessica, who is 1/16th Choctaw, received an Award for Heroism on April 4, 2004, from Mike Amos, Choctaw Nation Tribal

Councilman, District 2, for her quick thinking in the face of danger. She also received a "Dora the Explorer" bedding set to replace the one that was on her bed, which the fire destroyed.

Pharmacist receives state recognition

Congratulations to LT Ross Green who was recognized during the Oklahoma Area Pharmacy meeting on February 21 for the service he provides the Choctaw Nation as Deputy Chief Pharmacist. Ross is instrumental to the services the pharmacy department provides. He helped start and manage the anticoagulation clinic, oversees the activities of the pharmacy students, helps manage day-to-day activities and is helping develop a Pharmacy Residency program.

Ross is also the vaccination information officer, an active recruiter for the pharmacy program and has participated in statewide bio-terrorism drills. He is certified as a National Clinical Pharmacy Specialist and has qualified for the Commissioned Corps Readiness



Dennis Franks presents the award for Oklahoma Area Pharmacist to LT Ross Green.

Force for possible deployment.

For these and many other reasons, Ross was selected over many other officers for this pres-

tigious award given once a year to an Oklahoma Area Pharmacist in IHS with less than ten years of service.

Assistant Chief Bailey appointed EOSC regent

Eastern Oklahoma State College regent Mike Bailey was appointed by Gov. Brad Henry and confirmed by the Oklahoma State Senate for his first full seven-year term. Assistant Chief Bailey was first sworn in as a regent by Associate District Judge Bill Welch, Wilburton, in 2001 to finish a term left open when Gerald Dennis of Antlers resigned his position on the Eastern board.

Assistant Chief Bailey is a former director of Jones Academy in Hartshorne. He has experience as the Executive Director of Education for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as well as experience as a teacher and coach in both Oklahoma and Texas.

During 2002, he was appointed by Gov. Henry to serve as a member of the Steering Committee for Oklahoma's EDGE: Economic Development Generating Excellence.



CCA holds annual Provider Appreciation Banquet



Michelle Holloway, CCA Director, presents mini grants to day care representatives Leslie Medder, Kiddin' Around, \$1,000; Monica Patton of Marcia's Tender Care, \$500; Tina Feltman of See Saw Learning Center, \$750; Glenda Day of Day's Children's Center, \$500; Sandy McGowan of Happy Days Child Care, \$750, and Tammy Ketcher of Hide & Seek Child Care Center, \$500.

The Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance Program hosted its second annual Provider Appreciation Banquet on March 27 at the McAlester Expo Center. The theme of the day was " '50s at the Hop" and all were invited to dress in 1950's attire. All Child Care Assistance staff and all the CCA providers who currently receive payment to assist families with day care were invited with approximately 200 in attendance. The Appreciation Banquet is designed to recognize the child care providers for their continued dedication to children and families. Child care providers have one of the most demanding jobs and their daily perseverance is appreciated.

The theme of the banquet commenced with The Taffetas from the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Theater Department with a '50s style variety show. Then Nancy Burke, a motivational speaker/ventriloquist from Dallas, gave an awesome performance. Lunch was served during the entertainment with '50s music playing in the background.

Awards were given to the providers that had been on the CCA program for five and ten+ years. Several who have been providing child care since the inception of the program were recognized. Gift bags were also given at the end of the day.

See CCA on Page 5

Enjoys racing at Blue Ribbon Downs

Dear Assistant Chief Bailey,

I want to thank you and the Choctaw Nation for keeping Blue Ribbon Downs open so people like my husband and I can race our horses there. We really like that track. One of the big races for two-year-olds is run there, the Blue Ribbon Futurity. It ran March 21 and my husband and I won it with a filly named "Endalebull." I also want to thank you for the hard work you put into the gaming bill. It will really help people like my husband who is a dedicated Oklahoma horseman.

Tami Miller



Jackets provided Jr. rodeo finalists

Dear Editor,

We want to thank the Choctaw Nation for providing the jackets for the finalists of the Texoma Junior Rodeo Association 2003.

Pictured are my grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Katheryn Prentice. They are the children of Walter and Leslie Prentice of Bokchito, Oklahoma.

Pat Morgan Durant, Oklahoma

A special thank you

Dear Editor,

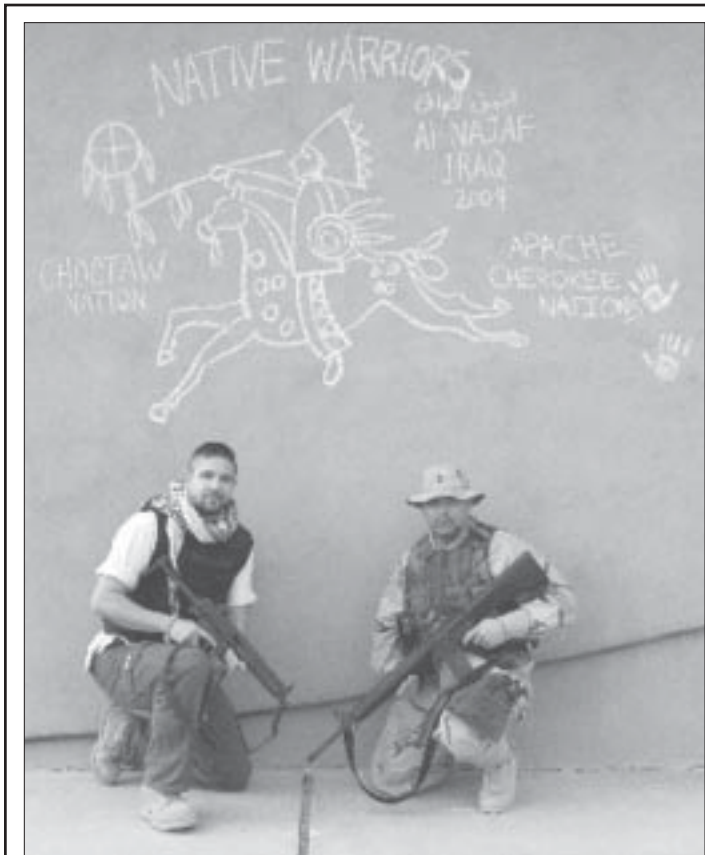
We would like to express our thanks to everyone for their prayers, food, flowers, phone calls, love and fellowship during the time of loss of our loved one.

Thank you to Jimmy Jones, Rosa Baker, Edgar and Hazel Taylor, Rita Austin and to the honorary pallbearers.

A special thank you to Chief Gregory Pyle, Choctaw Housing Authority, Choctaw Nation CHRs, Christy Hammons, Section 8 and Affordable Rental Housing of the Housing Authority, Mills Funeral Home, Mays Home Health of Antlers, and also to the staff of the Choctaw Nation Indian Hospital in Talihina for the care they provided for our loved one.

May God bless each and every one of you for being there during our time of sorrow.

The family of Agnes Kellett



Native warriors

SFC Chuck Boers, Cherokee/Apache, of the U.S. Army and TSgt Sam Stitt, Choctaw, of the U.S. Air Force met while on a mission and were thrilled to run into another warrior. Sam did the wall art in this photo taken at An Najaf. He was scheduled to return home in April.

Appreciates care package

Dear Choctaw Nation,

About a year ago I was in Iraq. I received a care package from you all and I appreciate it very much, even to this day. I'm very sorry that it has taken me so long to reply but I have been preparing to redeploy to Iraq in June. This has been a very busy time for me. But again, thank you very much. It makes us all feel good to know there are people thinking about us and that what we are doing is worthwhile.

Chris Rivet Kingwood, Texas

*Gregory E. Pyle
Chief*

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

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

Tribal leadership is extraordinary

Dear Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey and Councilmembers,

I feel like this is an appropriate time to write and express my thanks to you, the leaders, for the extraordinary and successful manner in which you have collectively conducted the affairs of the Choctaw Nation and the benefits enjoyed by many of the Nation's tribal members.

As a Choctaw veteran of World War II, I have been recognized and presented a jacket and a cap along with many others, making known to all that the Choctaws were well represented in all the past and present wars and conflicts and I wear mine with great pride and honor.

We also have a granddaughter who will graduate from Austin College in Sherman, Texas, in May of this year and the financial assistance made available to her by the Choctaw Nation has made it much easier and more pleasant to succeed in her desires to be a college graduate which was always her hope and dream.

I know with the leadership you have shown and the plans for the future, the Choctaw Nation and its members will prosper.

**Clarence J. Wilson
Fort Towson, Oklahoma**

Interest in education appreciated

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank you for your continuing interest in my education. Without the scholarship you have bestowed upon me. I would not have the money necessary to attend college. Because of your devotion to my education, I will be graduating this semester from Tulsa Community College.

Although I have accomplished much during my stay at TCC, I have truly found my educational footing these past two semesters. Because I have thrust myself into academia, I am proud to say that I will be graduating as an honors scholar, as a member of Phi Theta Kappa (Alpha Mu Iota Chapter), and as a member of Who's Who Among Students in Junior Colleges. These are but a few merits which I have garnered during my stay at TCC. However, these merits would not have materialized in my life without your most gracious gesture - a scholarship.

Thank you very much for the scholarship.

**Brian Harwood
Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Words of thanks from Durant family

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

Thank you so much for all your kindness, love and support. The stories during Grandpa's service were so great. The flowers were so beautiful and held a high honor. I'm so proud to be Choctaw and my Grandpa was especially proud. He would have been most pleased with all his friends and their faithful support. He has left behind a legacy that should go down in history. May God bless you all and continued success for our tribe.

The grandchildren of Randle Durant

New roads are something to be proud of

Dear Chief Pyle,

On behalf of the Hartshorne Board of Education, staff, and students, I would like to offer our sincere thanks for the improvements to the main roads surrounding our schools. The roads were in dire need of repair and resurfacing and no city funds to accomplish the task. Pride is something, as a school district, we try to instill in our staff and students. Pride in self. Pride in school. Pride in community. The new roads are something we can be proud of, for ourselves, for our school and for our community. The Choctaw Nation has always worked hard to help improve the lives of the people within their boundaries. We, as a school district, are very appreciative.

**James Barnes, Superintendent
Hartshorne Public Schools**

Searching for former shipmate

Dear Editor,

I am searching for a former Navy shipmate for our reunion. His name is Amaziah B. Jefferson. I believe he lived at Wilburton at one time. My phone number is (405) 391-3968 and my e-mail is npbarron@earthlink.net.

**Norman Barron
Harrah, Oklahoma**

Student appreciates education benefits

Dear Choctaw Nation,

This letter is to tell you how grateful I am for the much-needed help you provided me throughout my successful completion of college. There are no words to describe how appreciative I am that the Choctaw Nation helped me with my expenses for and during college. I am proud to announce that I graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond on December 13, 2003. I received a degree in Liberal Arts with a major of Criminal Justice and a minor of Business Administration.

Thank you again for the help you provide to all of us. It is not something you have to do but you do it anyway. I hope this letter will show how much I and others like me appreciate the benefits that are available to us.

**Chris Krob
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**



The children wait for the word "go" at the Boswell First Assembly of God Church's Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday.

Contribution helps with church's remodeling

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The congregation of Boswell First Assembly of God Church, which is 90% Choctaw, would like to thank Tribal Councilman Perry Thompson and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for a contribution to help with remodeling the building which is over 50 years old. Many services and activities are enjoyed by the congregation, including the annual Easter egg hunt for the children.

Herbert E. Wharton, Pastor



Michael Cusher and son, Michael

Cusher family extends grateful appreciation

Dear Editor,

The family of Michael DeWayne Cusher would like to thank everyone who stood beside us throughout Michael's illness and during the loss of Michael. Those hours were the darkest hours to bear.

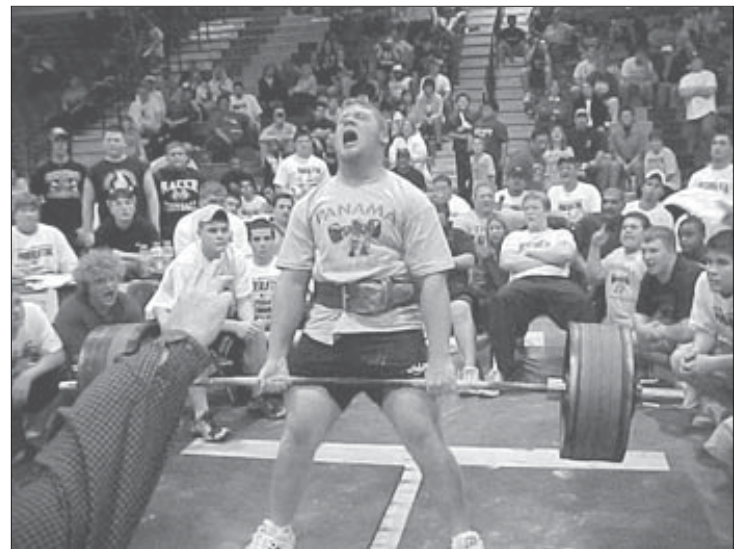
Words cannot express our deepest appreciation to Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, Tribal Councilman Mike Amos, Tribal Councilman Hap Ward, Choctaw Nation employees, Children and Family Services Program, many friends and neighbors. Your kindness, support, calls, prayers, cards, flowers, food and generosity will never be forgotten.

There was a call sent out to all of Choctaw Nation and other Native American communities. It was a call for those who are healthy and have Native American blood running through their veins. This call came from the family of Michael Cusher and Choctaw Nation Tribal Leaders. Michael was not well and needed assistance to help bring him back to the healing circle of strength and wellness. His only hope of survival was a bone marrow transplant.

Today, there is still a desperate need for more Native Americans on the National Bone Marrow Donor list. With more people on the list, there is a better chance of finding a match for someone who will most likely not survive without the transplant. You may be the one person in a million who can save a life.

Please continue to share the gift of life. Become a bone marrow donor. For more information contact the National Marrow Donor Program at 1-800-MARROW-2.

**Myrtle Williston
Idabel, Oklahoma**



Panama High School junior Kyle Wallis deadlifts 600 pound state record.

Thankful of tribe's support

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank Choctaw Nation for the support you have given me at my powerlifting competition. I am a two-time State Champion in powerlifting. I recently competed in the state powerlifting competition in Norman, Oklahoma, and won first place, totaling 1,490 pounds. I set the state record in Oklahoma in deadlifting with a whopping 600 pound lift.

**Kyle Wallis
Panama, Oklahoma**

A world of thanks

Dear Choctaw Nation Home Finance Department,

As I prepare for my first "house warming," I am thinking of all the people who helped to make this possible. Please accept heartfelt thanks for all your hard work that made a dream come true for me. I am truly grateful to you for the education about home ownership and the kindness I received under your guidance. I am truly blessed. A "world of thanks" is not enough to tell you how much I appreciate you. May God keep you in His care.

Susan Storey



Bloomfield/Carter Seminary

The Bloomfield/Carter Seminary reunion will be held May 15 at the Chickasaw Community Center, next to Carter Seminary in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Registration starts at 9 a.m. Please bring something to be sold at the white elephant auction and your \$5 fee. For more information contact Roberta Williams at (580) 889-5871.

James

A reunion is planned for the families of descendants of Jackson James and wife, Wysie, on May 31 at Robbers Cave State Park, Wilburton, Oklahoma. All descendants are invited! For more information contact Norma James at (918) 465-1248 or Marie Waggoner at (918) 567-2360 after 5 p.m. This is our first attempt to organize a reunion of all descendants.

Impson

The Impson reunion will be held June 12 and 13 at the VFW in Bokchito, Oklahoma. All Impsons, relatives and others are welcome. Let us know how many will be there so we will know how much food to order. There will be a magic show and lots of visiting. Spc Andrew Impson is back from Iraq and we expect to see him in Bokchito. Descendants of Regina Theodosia - I have some pictures and clippings left to me by Hardenia Mason. Please contact Cecil Impson Jr. at Cimpson@swbell.net, (512) 282-2665, or 404 Whitetail Dr., Manchaca, TX 78652.

Gibson-Pope

The annual Gibson and Pope family reunion will be June 19 at the Choctaw Community Center, 1632 S. George Nigh Expressway in McAlester, Oklahoma. Lunch will be served with lots of good food and fellowship. All relatives and friends are invited. Hours will be 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. For more information contact Clara Blevins at (918) 423-4766.

Pebworth-Pebworth

The eleventh Pebworth-Pebworth family reunion is scheduled for July 9-11. Pavilion 3 at Lake Texoma Resort Park, Kingston, Oklahoma, has been reserved for Friday and Saturday. A block of rooms and cabins have been reserved in the Pebworth-Pebworth Reunion name. Reservations must be made before June 9 or the rooms will be released for everyone else to use. For reservations call (800) 528-0593. Contact Todd or Robin Pebworth at (806) 647-5244 (w) (806) 938-2395 (h), leave message, or e-mail us at rjp352@amaonline.com for any other information you may need.

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Pray for our soldiers

Thanks to everyone who spent time in prayer for my son-in-law, Anton, who has spent 13 months serving in the National Guard in Iraq. We have been blessed with his safe return home, and are so appreciative of the kind acts and words of many people who have helped my daughter while she was here without him. My family and I continue to ask God for His protection of the men and women who are serving on our behalf in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

Care packages are still being sent from the Choctaw Nation to soldiers serving overseas. Donations continue to roll in to support the project, and names and addresses are still being added to the list for packets. If you have someone in the military that you would like to receive mail from the tribe, please let my office know so that we can send some items over to them. A great number of letters have been received here that tell of how thankful the military personnel are to find a box in their mail that contains a variety of snacks, hygiene products and several other items. While the letters express their delight in being able to share the gifts with their friends in Iraq, the strongest sentiments are their thankfulness in being remembered.

I would like to share portions of a letter I received from Head-



quarters, 120th Engineers Combat Battalion Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. William Bartheld:

"Since World War I, the Oklahoma National Guard and Native American Tribes of Oklahoma have supported the United States of America in its fight for freedom. Even now, the 120th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Okmulgee, is deployed as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Not unlike previous wars and deployments, we have Native Americans proudly serving our Nations and the 120th in this Global War on Terrorism.

"It is my desire to recognize their heritage and service in the 120th Engineers. I feel that it is also important to show the people of Iraq, and the units in our area, the Native American legacy in our unit."

Lt. Col. Bartheld said that their headquarters in Iraq will fly a Choctaw tribal flag to symbolize the unity and presence of tribal members in the 120th Engineers. He ended his letter with this statement, "I would also like for you to know that you have sent the best soldiers I have had the opportunity to serve with in the military. Again, thank you, and God bless."

It is with pride that I can say Chahta Sia Hoke – I am Choctaw.



"Choctaw Nation" takes the lead at Santa Anita Park on February 29.

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

Exciting things happening for Choctaw Nation



As construction moves along rapidly for the new Choctaw Casino in Durant and the expanded casino in Pocola, improvements are also continuing for the Blue Ribbon Downs race track in Sallisaw. New barns for the horses, renovated clubhouse, new day care and better track surface are among the most noticeable changes that have been made at Blue Ribbon.

New business ventures of the tribe are always exciting, and the horse racing industry is no exception. There are always interesting stories to be told.

I recently received a letter from an acquaintance in Arcadia, California, that updated me on a horse named "Choctaw Nation." This beautiful horse won his first start at Santa Anita. Although the owner, Aase Headley, had tried to enter him in a number of races, there were never adequate entries for the race to actually run. Finally the horse, Choctaw Nation, was entered into a \$40,000 claiming race. This means that he could be bought at the end of the race for that amount.

Choctaw Nation dropped to last in the race, probably 20 lengths behind. According to Headley, he moved up in the middle of the turn and won the race! Because of this amazing performance, he was claimed for the \$40,000. The new owner ran him again three weeks later, with a similar performance, falling far behind, then winning again. Now, the horse is offered for sale at half a million dollars.

It is wonderful that people in this industry have opportunities such as this to be successful. I am appreciative that the tribe uses success of businesses to bring new jobs and needed services to our tribal members across the world.



Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

Paul the Apostle instructs Christians to grow up. To the church at Corinth he repeats, "What! know ye not ..."

Today we look at a truth as revealed to us in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Mark. This chapter deals with the reality of Demon possession.

As an introduction we look at verses 2 and 15: "And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit." Verse 15: "And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind; and they were afraid."

These two verses are just a background of one of many instances in the New Testament in which our Lord Jesus encountered men possessed by evil spirits. Now, let us not think that these things happened long ago and are out of date, and do not exist today.

Mark's gospel is the record of the dreadful experience of human beings in the grips of demons. This is something we cannot ignore. It is at the very heart of the message of the Christian faith.

First, let's make a clear distinction between the words "devil" and "demon." The word "devil" is the one word that is used of the one, strange, powerful, spiritual personality called Satan. Satan is a word meaning "adversary." The word "demon" is always used in relation to the evil of an unclean spirit which inhabits human beings.

These demons, before the fall of man described in Genesis, were led in a revolt against God by their leader, Satan – Lucifer, the son of the morning – reference to this is found in Isaiah 14 and Revelation 12, where we are told that no less than one-third of the angels of heaven were involved in the revolt which Satan carried out in his attempt to take over the throne of God. For this revolt, Lucifer and his followers (the angels) were cast out of heaven. It is these "fallen angels" who are demons today.

The New Testament reveals the existence of these beings, the access to human people. They are always seeking some material resting place. They could not exist except within human personality or some kind of physical being. And they were always seeking after something or someone through whom they could express their foul, devilish ways – their dirty works. These evil spirits – demons – can create only destruction and ruin.

Today, we can see these demons operating in the incident which is described for us in Mark chapter 5.

What was the condition of this man? Look at him in verse 2. He was "a man with an unclean spirit." This man's personality was completely controlled with evil spirit. Just as a Christian would claim that his life is "filled – controlled by the Holy Spirit."

First, notice this man's condition in verse 3. He was in a condition of isolation, he "had his dwelling among the tombs," as far away from society as he could get.

Secondly, again in verse 3, and verse 4, he was in a condition of lawlessness. "... No man could bind him, no, not with chains, because he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him." Nothing could hold him.

Thirdly, this man was in a condition of restlessness in verse 5: "And always night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying ..." Did you ever see a man or woman so restless these days?

Fourthly, this man was in a condition of self-inflicted suffering in verse 5: "... cutting himself with stones."

Then fifthly, he was a danger to society. Matthew 8:28 tells us (though Mark does not record this in exactly the same words): "... he was ... exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass that way."

What a picture of the effect upon a man when he is possessed by an unclean spirit. Is that out of date? Don't you see these symptoms everywhere today? Demon possession is around us – in our time.

Now, notice not only the condition of the man possessed with the evil spirits, but also the character of the demons themselves. The most significant aspect of this whole incident was the attitude of the demons in verses 6 and 7: "But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? ..."

The Devil knows God, and acknowledges the Deity of Jesus Christ. If these evil spirits, demons – unclean spirits, fallen angels – acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God, we might ask ourselves what right have these teachers who deny the Deity of Jesus Christ call themselves Christians.

These unclean spirits spoke through the man, they begged Jesus, that if they were driven out of the man they might enter into a herd of pigs. This reveals their desire for some material influence to satisfy their strange, hellish appetite.

The evil spirits had so possessed the man that he was almost unrecognizable as they held him in their power. He was absolutely helpless.

Jesus spoke in verse 8: "... Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit." That was enough. He did not begin by clothing the man, but by saving him. The only way to get a man out of the slum or skidrow, the gutter of sin, is to get the slum-skidrow, unclean spirit out of the man. Social reform is very good, but the only hope for the human heart is not changed circumstances but a changed heart – a new nature.

In verse 17 the crowd prayed Jesus to depart. They preferred the pigs to the Savior. It is a dreadful thing to tell Jesus to depart. In preferring sin to salvation, that is exactly what you are doing when you listen to the voice that wants to hold you in its grips, instead of listening to the voice of Jesus who says, "Come, take my yoke upon you, learn of me, I will give you rest."

Pray for America. Pray for our service men and women.

Choctaw Nation All Indian Rodeo Region 8 Results for March 28, 2004

Jr. Barrels – 1st performance

- 1st: Micaela Carlile, Cherokee, of Tahlequah
- 2nd: Shelby Johnson
- 3rd: Montana Dill, Choctaw, of Boswell
- 4th: Hazen Herrera, Cherokee, of Verdigris

Jr. Steer Riding

- 1st: Lane Scott, Choctaw, of Ada

Bareback

- 1st: Jeremy Shed, Creek, of Holdenville

Calf Roping – 1st performance

- 1st: Jade Thompson, Choctaw, of Ratliff
- 2nd: Jack Carlile, Cherokee, of Tahlequah
- 3rd: Bruce Posey, Creek, of Boynton

Steer Wrestling – 1st performance

- 1st: Corbin Warren, Cherokee, of Kansas
- 2nd: Shane Sparks, Choctaw, of Allen
- 3rd: Steve Wayman, Choctaw, of Antlers

Break Away – 1st performance

- 1st: Shea Herrera, Cherokee, of Verdigris
- 2nd: Kasi Prather, Cherokee, of Ochelata
- 3rd: Bobbi Jo Warren, Cherokee, of Kansas

Open Barrels – 1st performance

- 1st: Stephanie Arnold
- 2nd: Micaela Carlile, Cherokee, of Tahlequah
- 3rd: Pam Williams
- 4th: Jennifer Weaver, Cherokee, of Vinita
- 5th: Jessica Anderson

Bull Riding – 1st performance

- 1st: Toby Bean, Choctaw, of Bethel
- 2nd: Ricardo Tarin, Cherokee

Team Roping – 1st performance

- 1st: Rod Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- Bryan Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- 2nd: Davey Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- Bryan Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- 3rd: Joel Maker
- John Trent
- 4th: Shawnee Bacon
- Barry Dill
- 5th: Howard Edmundson
- Corbin Warren
- 6th: Duane Noah
- Chris Anderson

Jr. Barrels – 2nd performance

- 1st: Ashlee Sharp, Choctaw, of Hartshorne
- 2nd: Micaela Carlile, Cherokee, of Tahlequah
- 3rd: Alex Winship, Choctaw, of Hugo
- 4th: Shelby Johnson

Jr. Steer Riding

- 1st: Lane Scott, Choctaw, of Ada

Bareback

- 1st: Jeremy Shed, Creek, of Holdenville

Calf Roping – 2nd performance

- 1st: Bruce Posey, Creek, of Boynton
- Split 2/3: Allen Hartness, Seneca Cayuga, Vinita
- Split 2/3: Corbin Warren, Cherokee, of Kansas

Steer Wrestling – 2nd performance

- 1st: Corbin Warren, Cherokee, of Kansas
- 2nd: Shane Sparks, Choctaw, of Allen
- 3rd: Steve Wayman, Choctaw, of Antlers

Break Away – 2nd performance

- 1st: Jimma Beth Forman, Cherokee, of Bigsby
- 2nd: Jessica Thompson, Choctaw, of Calera
- 3rd: Kasi Prather, Cherokee, of Ochelata

Open Barrels – 2nd performance

- 1st: Jennifer Weaver, Cherokee, of Vinita
- 2nd: Lue Hansen, Creek, St. Charles, Minnesota
- 3rd: Shea Herrera
- 4th: Pam Williams, Choctaw, of Skiatook
- 5th: Jessica Anderson

Bull Riding – 2nd performance

- Ground money paid

Team Roping – 2nd performance

- 1st: Keith Bacon, Choctaw, of Durant
- Doyle Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- 2nd: J.D. Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- Doyle Bacon, Choctaw, of Boswell
- 3rd: Howard Edmundson
- Scott Daily
- 4th: Joel Maker
- John Trent
- 5th: Davey Bacon
- Bryan Bacon
- 6th: Shawnee Bacon
- John Trent

Choctaw Nation awarded during Southern Oklahoma Blood Institute's Appreciation Banquet



Anita Cox of the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority accepts the Holiday Hero Award from Ronald O. Gilcher, M.D., President, CEO and Director of the Oklahoma Blood Institute, Oklahoma City.

Enjoying the family meal

Family meals are important. You create close bonds and life-long memories around the family table. Family meals can teach your child about healthful eating. You just need to be a good role model. When you try new foods your child may be more adventurous with food, too.

Try these easy ways to make family meals a pleasant part of your family routine:

Set a regular family mealtime:

Regular mealtimes give your child a better chance to eat a variety of foods to get the right amount to grow, stay healthy, and keep a healthy weight.

Make it simple, make it quick!

Spend less time in the kitchen and more time at the family table. Simple meals, even cold sandwiches, taste as good as meals that take more work. You can make any meal special if you all feel relaxed and if mealtime is filled with caring and laughter. Simplify – take care of you, too!

Show that family meals are important:

During mealtime, turn off the TV. Let the answering machine take your phone calls, too. Have your family make calls before or after the meal hour. Show that same respect for other families when you make phone calls.

Eat around a table:

It's easier to talk and listen to your family when you face each other. Eating side-by-side at the kitchen counter or sitting in front of the TV takes away eye contact.

Enjoy meal talk:

Make easy conversations – no nagging or complaining. Talk so everyone can be a "star" at mealtime. Don't take over. Your child will listen and learn by feeling included.

Be realistic about mealtime:

Try to sit down together. Keep meals from lasting too long. If kids get fussy, your family meal won't be fun. Wait until everyone is done to be excused.

Helping with family meals makes your child feel important in your family. You get time together, too. Your child learns even when tasks aren't perfectly done. So even if you work faster alone, ask your child to help you.

Healthy Lifestyles

Healthy living = longer life

Small changes that we make in our daily lives could help prevent chronic disease such as diabetes, heart disease, or cancer. A recent National Institute of Health study showed that walking 30 minutes a day, five days a week can significantly improve your health. In fact, this walking regiment helped reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes by nearly 60%. If just 10% of the population engaged in this schedule, we could significantly improve the health of our nation!

The following are some small steps that could yield big rewards:

- Park a little farther away from your destination, whether at work, the grocery store. Parking in the back or even the middle of the lot means more exercise.
- Take the stairs.
- Take the dog on a long walk. It will mean more exercise for you.
- Get involved with your children in outside activities such as biking, gardening, walking, basketball, softball. You'll spend more time together and burn calories.
- Walk during the lunch hour, after lunch, take a quick walk around the building. You'll have more energy for the rest of the day.
- Drink plenty of water – it's calorie free.
- Snack on fresh fruits and vegetables. Think of the vitamins gained and the calories saved.
- Take time out of your busy schedules to make a list of activities that you could engage in with your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to increase the level of activity in your lives. It will make for a healthier, happier lifestyle for everyone around you.

The Southern Oklahoma Blood Institute held its annual Drive Coordinator's Appreciation Banquet on April 12 in the Magnolia Room at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant. Drive coordinators and other special guests were entertained by the Black Diamond Strings, a blue grass band which features OBI's own Henry Burton on banjo.

Mr. Iyla Cross was the evening's patient speaker. Cross thanked those present for their continued support of our area's blood supply which he depends on regularly for life. Ronald O. Gilcher, M.D., President, CEO and Director of the Oklahoma Blood Institute, Oklahoma City, talked about the latest advances in blood banking technology, the constant need for blood donors and how that impacts Durant and surrounding areas.

Several awards were presented to schools, businesses and organizations in a three-county area of Bryan, Choctaw and McCurtain counties. Those winners included:

Lifesaver Awards – Colbert High School FCCLA & NHS and McCurtain Memorial Hospital, Idabel. These groups helped ensure a sufficient blood supply during times of critical need.

Greatest Number of Donations – Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, for 700 units donated and Tyson, Broken Bow, for 304 units given during 2003.

Dr. Ronald O. Gilcher Lead Dog Award is in honor of OBI's President & CEO, whose philosophy has always been, "If you're not the lead dog, the view never changes." Award winners were Durant High School's HOSEA group, Durant, and Choctaw Nation, Durant.

2003 Drive Coordinator of the Year honor went to a very deserving individual who is dedicated to the cause of keeping blood on hospital shelves – Peggy Allen of Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma, Du-

rant. Peggy has served as drive coordinator for her group for 12 years and does an outstanding job.

OBI's Holiday Hero awards recognize donor groups who host blood drives either on or two days before or after a holiday to ensure blood is available during these critical times. The 2003 Holiday Heroes included: Body Business, Durant, for 4th of July and Thanksgiving; Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation, Hugo, for Memorial Day; Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma, Durant, for New Year's 4th of July and Labor Day; Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, for Labor Day; Tyson, Broken Bow, for New Year's, and WalMart, Durant, for New Year's, 4th of July, and Labor Day.

"This is a special event which gives SOBI an opportunity to honor and thank the drive coordinators and others for all the hard work and dedication they give throughout the year to make



Freda Nixon accepts the Dr. Ronald O. Gilcher Lead Dog Award.

their blood drives successful. It's our way of saying 'thank you' for a job well done," said Vanessa Ramsey, manager of SOBI, Ardmore. "SOBI is very fortunate to have so many dedicated groups that help us provide a safe and adequate blood supply to area hospital patients."

Choctaw Nation joins in sponsoring informational programs

Bryan County OSU Extension is offering a series of classes on discipline at the Bryan County Community Building, 1901 S. Ninth, Durant, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: May 18, 25, June 1, 8, 15 and 22.

The Choctaw Nation is helping to sponsor these classes. They will be providing a light supper and door prizes for the participants. At the completion of the classes, Choctaw Nation will provide gifts for the participant's children.

There is a one-time charge of \$5 and the classes are open to the public. If you would like to take a look at discipline, find out why children misbehave, how to prevent misbehavior, and know what responses to use for misbehavior, please call the OSU Extension Center at (580) 924-5312 to register.

Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center and OSU Extension are also offering a program on healthy lifestyles for Bryan County youth, age 9 to 19. They are invited to attend the program from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 26, at the Bryan County Community Building. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The youth are asked to bring a sack lunch.

The Choctaw Nation's "Salad Sisters" will present their highly recommended, upbeat and fun program on healthy living and OSU Extension will have activities using the five senses to learn about food. Included in these programs will be nutrition education, good snacks and general diabetes information. Physical activity and games as well as an exciting video will be included.

Space is limited. Call the OSU Extension Office at (580) 924-5312 to register.

OSU Extension Home and Community Education members are holding a quilting workshop for youth age 9 to 19. The workshop will be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. June 3, 10, 17, and 24 at the Bryan County Community Building.

Students will make a log cabin quilt pillow top using straight seams.

Participants need to bring scissors, needle, thread (any color)

"What Parents Should Know About Discipline"

Sponsors: OSU Extension and Choctaw Nation
6:30-8 p.m.
Tuesdays:
May 18, 25, June 1, 8, 15 and 22
Bryan County Community Building, 1901 S. Ninth, Durant

"Healthy Lifestyles"

Sponsors: OSU Extension and Choctaw Nation
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (Registration at 9:30 a.m.)
Wednesday, May 26
Bryan County Community Building, 1901 S. Ninth, Durant

"Quilting Workshop"

Sponsor: OSU Extension Home and Community Education
1 p.m.-3 p.m.
June 3, 10, 17 and 24
Bryan County Community Building, 1901 S. Ninth, Durant

and a sewing machine. A limited number of machines will be provided.

The material and batting will be provided for a charge of \$3.

Students may enter their prized pillow in the Bryan County Free Fair in September.

Space is limited. Call the OSU Extension office at (580) 924-5312 to register.

Future activities include: Food Preservation, July 8, and Fun

with Fabric, July 20.

All youth are invited to attend these workshops.

Oklahoma State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local Governments cooperating: Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Services offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, or status as a veteran and is an equal opportunity employer.

NC college making education affordable

Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina, is inviting students to visit with its Financial Aid Counselors. The counselors can help students benefit with almost "no out of pocket fees." More than 98% of the students at Lees-McRae College benefit from financial assistance.

Call the Admissions Office at Lees-McRae College, 1-800-280-4562, or e-mail admissions@lmc.edu. You can also visit their website at www.lmc.edu.

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.



Simmon Harjo, Susan Edwards, Lloyd "Bubba" Dukes and Stacey Ashalintubbi.

DWC Fitness Assistants earn PFS Certification

Simmon Harjo, Susan Edwards, Lloyd "Bubba" Dukes and Stacey Ashalintubbi, who are employed as fitness assistants at the Choctaw Nation DWC Fitness Center in Talihina, recently traveled to the Cooper Institute in Dallas, Texas, for training to become Physical Fitness Specialists.

The Cooper Institute was founded in 1970 by Dr. Kenneth Cooper, who is known as the "Father of Aerobics." Dr. Cooper has been credited with motivating more people to exercise in pursuit of good health than any other person.

The PFS course provides those interested in providing training and fitness guidance with the necessary training in fitness leadership and technical skills to implement individualized programs.

The intense five-day course consisted of daily lectures, hands-on training and demonstration. Topics included Fitness and Wellness, Coronary Risk Factors, Medical Screening, Exercise and Safety, Anatomy and Kinesiology, Blood Pressure, Body Composition, Fitness Assessment, Exercise Physiology, Goal Setting, Exercise Guidelines,

Native American cowboys, cowgirls needed at Connors

Connors State College in Warner, Oklahoma, is looking for outstanding Native American cowboys and cowgirls to fill the college rodeo roster and/or horse training program.

CSC has a Native American enrollment of 22% and is located in the heart of green country with easy access to Interstate 40. Campus facilities include an indoor arena, large outdoor arena, stall barns, trailer parking and turn out facilities, all on the main campus.

For more information about the CSC Rodeo Team and Equine Program, contact:

Fred Williams, Equine Instructor/Rodeo Coach, at (918) 463-6303 (office), or (918) 463-3725 (home), or Jake Lawson, Equine Instructor/Asst. Rodeo Coach, at (918) 463-6303 (office), or (918) 989-5024 (home).


Financial aid and scholarship information available upon request.

McKee/Smallwood Cemetery Notice

Decorating and cleaning of the McKee and Smallwood Family Cemetery will be Saturday, May 29. It will involve working, eating and plenty of visiting. If you don't have time to spend the day, drop by and visit with us. You are always welcome.



Members of the OK Choctaw Alliance joined in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Oklahoma City.



Choctaw Nation WIC

Serving the Choctaw Nation at 14 sites

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



Centers receiving 10+ year awards: Victory Life Academy, Inc., Durant; McElroy Home Day Care, McAlester; Kiamichi INCA Development Center, Atoka; Little Rascals Child Care Center, Hartshorne; Choctaw Nation Child Care Development Center, Durant; Happy Days Child Care Center, Broken Bow, and Nicholas Home Day Care, Lane.



Five year awards: ABC-123 Child Care Center, Platter; McGowen Home Day Care, Broken Bow; Reynolds Home Day Care, Hugo; Kiddie Korral, Durant; Marcia's Tender Care, McAlester.

This year, CCA staff were very excited to give mini improvement grants as door prizes for licensed and non-licensed providers.

A \$1,000 mini grant was presented to Kiddin' Around Academy of McAlester.

Receiving a \$750 mini grant were Happy Days Child Care of Broken Bow and See Saw Learning Center of Durant.

Four centers received a \$500 mini grant, My Friends House Learning Center of McAlester, Hide & Seek Child Care Center of Wilburton, Day's Children's Center of Atoka, and Marcia's Tender Care of McAlester.

The home day cares of Betty Cole of Hugo and Lucy Pride of Talihina each received a \$250 mini grant.

The Choctaw Nation CCA Program is currently distributing supplies to its active providers to say "Thank You" for everything they do for the children. Remember, National Provider Appreciation Day is May 7 this year.



Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel, Melvin Burris, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and District 12 Councilperson James Frazier.

Donations help improve Allen's batting facility

Donations from the Chickasaw Nation were able to assist in improvements to Allen High School's batting facility, bleachers and stadium cover. On hand to show appreciation to Gov. Bill Anoatubby and Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel of the Chickasaw Nation are Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Tribal Councilperson James Frazier, Legislator Melvin Burris and members of the Allen Baseball Boosters.

Black Mesa Ecological Academy planned for high school students

The Oklahoma Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) is seeking high school students to participate in the Black Mesa Ecological Academy. The academy will be held June 20-25 at Kenton, Oklahoma. This academy will be a cooperative effort among Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Students will explore the rangelands of the five-state area.

The five-day academy provides the opportunity to learn more about range and wildlife management, conservation plan-

ning, plant identification, conflict resolution and leadership development. All these subjects are integrated using new technology such as global positioning systems and geographic information systems.

Applications can be obtained at a local conservation district office or at the NRCS office located at the county office. These offices are located in Antlers, Atoka, Coalgate, Durant, Holdenville, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, Stigler, Talihina, Valliant and Wilburton. Information can also be obtained off

the Oklahoma SRM website, <http://www.agr.okstate.edu/OKSRM/range.htm>. Applications must be postmarked by May 15, 2004.

All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner. 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 Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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

Folsom inducted into Bryan County Athletics Hall of Fame



Shawna Folsom

In January, the Bryan County Athletics Hall of Fame added Shawna Folsom of Bennington, Oklahoma, to its elite list of local athletes. Shawna was almost unstoppable in the paint as she earned All-State honors at Bennington in 1991-1992. She was a four-year starter for the Lady Bears and averaged 29 points per game in her senior season.

She was a four-year member of Bryan County All-Conference and All-Tournament Teams, a three-time All-Star Team and twice named All-Conference Most Valuable Player, All-Tournament MVP and All-Star MVP at forward.

She earned All-State honors in 1991-92 and also played in the

Kiamichi All-Star Game. She also qualified three years for the State Track Meet in the long jump, 800 meters and two-mile relay.

Shawna was recruited by Southeastern Oklahoma State University and played in four National Tournaments with the Lady Savages.

Off the court, she was a member of the Honor Society, Spanish Club, Student Council, Most Athletic, Most Attractive and Homecoming Queen as a senior. Shawna was listed on the Tulsa World's 6-on-6 Blue Chip and Oklahoma's Greatest Athletes lists along with Atoka's Crystal Robinson. Shawna and Crystal played together at SOSU.

"The National Tournaments with Southeastern were an experience," Shawna said. "I'm from a small school and we didn't travel. It was a whole different world in Jackson, Tennessee. Oman Arena is a big, big place to play."

She still plays some basketball with former teammates, but her passion is watching daughter Malinda play for Calera's fifth-graders.

Shawna is the daughter of Michael and Sue Folsom of Bennington. Her grandparents are the late Nelson and Samantha (Fobb) Williams and J.D. Folsom, all Choctaw, and a good Irish lady, Gertie (Folsom) Campo. All are from Bennington.

LADDER SAFETY

- ▶ Always read the manufacturer's instructions that are with your ladder. It contains the weight the ladder can support and the height you shouldn't exceed, as well as the proper use of the product.
- ▶ Inspect the ladder prior to use for malfunctions or possible hazards like a broken rung.
- ▶ Have the right ladder for the job. Overextending the ladder is a definite hazard when it is extended past its intended reach.
- ▶ Don't stand on the ladder's bucket stand. It is not a step.
- ▶ Check for proper surface, one that is level, firm ground to support the ladder legs while you climb up. Make sure that the angle of the ladder isn't too extreme.
- ▶ Do not use metal ladders near electrical sources.
- ▶ Face the ladder as you climb down, and also center your weight between the two sides.
- ▶ Don't reach out from the ladder. If you can't reach it from where you are at then climb down and move the ladder to where you need it.
- ▶ Remember to always tie off your ladder before climbing up. If you can't tie off to anything, then have someone spot the ladder for you.

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

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

June

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| June 1: | Coalgate 9-12; Poteau (A-L) 9-2 |
| June 3: | Poteau (M-Z) 9-2; Stigler 9-2 |
| June 7: | Broken Bow 9-2 |
| June 9: | Talihina 9-12 |
| June 11: | Wright City 9-10:30; Hugo 12-2 |
| June 14-18: | Warehouses Closed |
| June 15: | Idabel 9-12 |
| June 17: | Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 |
| June 28-30: | Warehouses Closed |

Food Distribution Sites

- ANTLERS – Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 306 S.W. "O" St.
- ATOKA – National Guard Armory.
- BETHEL – Choctaw Nation Community Building.
- BROKEN BOW – Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center.
- COALGATE – Choctaw Community Center.
- DURANT – Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr.
- HUGO – Housing Authority.
- IDABEL – Choctaw Village Shopping Center.
- McALESTER – Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 1212 S. Main.
- POTEAU – Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center.
- SMITHVILLE – Big Lick Church.
- STIGLER – Choctaw Community Building.
- TALIHINA – Boys & Girls Club.
- WRIGHT CITY – Choctaw Head Start Building.

The Food Distribution Program workers will take a 30 minute lunch break from 11:30 to 12 noon. Please bring boxes to pick up your commodities. If you cannot pick up commodities when you are scheduled, please notify the Food Distribution Office at 580-924-7773 or 800-522-6170 so that you can be rescheduled to go to Antlers, Durant or McAlester. The Food Distribution Program does not discriminate because of sex, race, color, age, political beliefs, religion, handicapped or national origin.

Bertram Bobb Bible Camp

Ringold, Oklahoma
announces its

2004 Mini-Camp & Summer Camp



Schedule

- Mini-Camp for grades 7 through 12 May 27-29
- Kid's Camp #1 for ages 8-12 June 6-11
- Kid's Camp #2 for ages 8-12 June 13-18
- Kid's Camp #3 for ages 8-12 June 20-25
- Teen Camp for grades 7 through 12 June 27-July 2

Call Travis or Nancy for brochures and for information:
1-580-981-2647.



The camp is located on the shores of Pine Creek Lake in southeast Oklahoma, Ringold, Hwy. 3, McCurtain County.

Fees for the summer camp are \$25 per camper for a week; \$15 per camper for mini-camp.



Language class completes Phase I

Congratulations to the McAlester Choctaw Language Community Class for completing Phase I of the Choctaw Language. Pictured are, in front, Bryan Frazier, and in back, Randy Jefferson, Sylvia Jefferson, Rhoda Anderson, Reba Pope, Carol Crouch and Frank Crouch.

Tribal Membership department urges voter registration

The Choctaw Nation is having a special election in District 6 – Latimer County, Oklahoma – to fill longtime Councilmember Randle Durant's council vacancy. For those who live outside the Choctaw Nation but are registered to vote District 6, please make sure the Membership Department has a correct address or you will not receive an absentee ballot.

Once again, if you have children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren, please be sure to apply for their CDIB and their Tribal Membership card when they are born and not wait until they need them for activities, education, etc.



Councilman Mike Amos visits Lukfata first grade

District 2 Councilman Mike Amos recently participated in Read Across America, reading to Mrs. Bone's first grade class at Lukfata.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY PROGRAM

June Calendar

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

People You Know



Birthdays wishes

The family send wishes for a happy ninth birthday to Maria Dawn Shomo on April 21 and a happy fifth birthday to Joshua DeWayne Rodgers on April 8.



Artwork places second

Lyndsey Jenkins won second place at the Tulsa Indian Arts Festival in February. There were several schools competing and she won in the 6th through 12th grade division.

Lyndsey, 11, is the granddaughter of Henry H. Whiteman, a descendant of Chief Peter P. Pitchlynn. She is a 6th grade student at Lone Star School in Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

Congratulations, Lyndsey!



Happy birthday three times!

Ken, Heidi and Max Vitali will all be one year older this month! Ken's great-great-grandmother was Ida Stewart, an original enrollee.

Happy birthday with lots of love from your families!



B-I-G birthday wish

A B-I-G wish for a happy birthday is sent to John David Ewing Anderson Jr. who turned two years young on January 15. We love you very much - from your family, Dad, Mom, Grandma Candy, Great-Grandma Sophia, Great-Uncles Patrick and Richard, and Uncles Brandon, Jeremy and Kenneth Anderson.



Happy 17th

Isaac Wacoche Jr. of Talihina, Oklahoma, turned 17 on April 20. He is a sophomore at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He wants to say "Happy 35th birthday" to cousin Cheb, also on April 20; happy birthday to Gramma Catherine on April 21; to Uncle Tick on his 45th, April 19; Uncle Bun's and Aunt Hed's 55th on April 3, and can't forget Uncle Eddie's 56th birthday on April 13.

Isaac Jr. is the son of Isaac Sr. and Brenda Wacoche of Talihina. Happy birthday Lummy from Mom, Dad, sister, Monette, and brothers, Shane, David and Wayne.



Look who's four!

Happy birthday to Kenny Joe LeMieux who turned four years old on April 28.

Kenny is the son of Nancy LeMieux of Arlington, Texas, and Ken LeMieux of Tomah, Wisconsin. Grandparents include John Wilcox, Jan Carter and Grandbob. Judy and Daryl Phelps are his aunt and uncle.



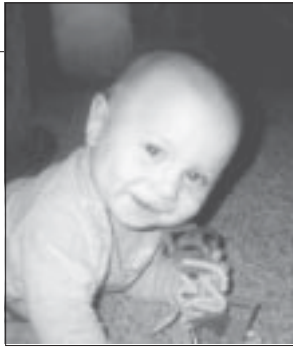
Happy birthday

The family of Bobby and Fallon Lewis would like to wish them both a happy birthday. Bobby will turn 27 on May 16 and Fallon will be four on the 18th. Happy birthday, Fill! from Uncle Gregg.



First birthday

Owen R. Lewis will celebrate his very first birthday on May 23. He is the son of Josh and Natasha (Tanksley) Lewis of Purcell, Oklahoma. He is the grandson of Dickie and Lisa (Williams) Lewis of Purcell and the great-grandson of Elsie and the late Raymond Lewis of Durant, Oklahoma.



Happy birthday, Sue

Happy 58th birthday to Sue (White) Russell on May 5. With love from your family.



Carla to celebrate 34th

Carla (Johnson) Sampson will celebrate her 34th birthday on May 11. Happy birthday from all your tribe!



Kalia turns one year old

A very happy first birthday on May 7 is wished to Kalia Sisson of Oklahoma City from her great-grandmother, Joann Parker Hays of Albin, Wyoming.

Kalia and Joann are descendants of Alec Labor of Antlers, Oklahoma.

Original enrollee celebrates 98th

Della Victoria (Brown) White celebrated her 98th birthday at a dinner party hosted by her granddaughter, Deborah Driscoll. Mrs. White is one of a few original enrollees still living. She is very proud of her Choctaw heritage. She now resides in Duncanville, Texas. She was born and raised north of McAlester, Oklahoma, in the communities of Ulan and Rock Creek. She has lived most of her life in McAlester and Dallas, having moved to the Dallas suburb of Duncanville last year. She enjoys sewing, crafts, cooking, gardening, shopping, reading current events, TV and attending church and the church adult center where she loves watching square dancing. All her children, Valder Hammon of Lawton, Oklahoma, Cecil and Paul Hammon of Duncanville, Dale White of Durango, Colorado, and Patsy France of Burbank, California, want to say, "We all love you and wish you many more happy birthdays!"



Happy birthday, Ada

Ada (Gibson) Lusk of Arpelar, Oklahoma, near McAlester, celebrated her 80th birthday on April 4. She is the daughter of the late Adam and Winnie (Pope) Gibson, an original Choctaw enrollee. She received her education in Arpelar, Haywood and Southeastern State College in Durant. She was married to Andy Lusk and they lived and raised their family in California. After retiring from the produce store in California, they returned to Oklahoma. She has one brother, Jim Gibson of Haywood, and four sisters, Caldonia Choate of Watsonville, California, Ann Smith, Clara Blevins of McAlester, and Viola Blevins, deceased. Mrs. Lusk enjoys reading and gardening and visiting with her sisters and friends at the Choctaw Community Center in McAlester each Wednesday for lunch.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Nautia McCoy of Oklahoma City who turned four years old on March 6 and to her brother, Stephen McCoy Jr. of Oklahoma City who turned four on March 21. Also, happy birthday to Stephen McCoy Sr. of Oklahoma City who turned 22 on February 28. Love always, your Uncle Spencer.



She's a teenager!

Jessica Janae Simmons celebrated her 13th birthday on April 16. Jessica, a seventh-grader at Comanche Middle School in Comanche, Oklahoma, is active in track, basketball and band where she plays the flute and oboe. She is the second great-granddaughter of original enrollee Peter Ward Folsom. She is the daughter of John Douglas Simmons and Jennifer Totten and she is the granddaughter of Don and Karen Folsom Simmons.



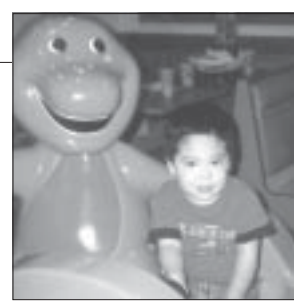
Happy 17th

Heather Watson of Watson, Oklahoma turned 17 on March 23. She is the daughter of George and Daisy Watson of Watson, Oklahoma. We would all like to wish Heather a happy birthday!



Look who's two!

Happy birthday to Cody Rodriguez. He turned two on March 19. Cody is the son of Alice and Carlos Rodriguez of Waldron, Arkansas. He is the grandson of George and Daisy Watson of Watson, Oklahoma. Happy birthday, Cody. We love you!



Sweet 16

We want to wish Valerie Watson a happy 16th birthday on March 21. Valerie is the daughter of George and Daisy Watson of Watson, Oklahoma. Happy birthday, Valerie!



Birthday wishes for two

Happy birthday to Jordan and Cameron Hodge. Jordan turned three on March 14 and Cameron turned five on March 24. Proud parents are Sheala and Alvin Hodge of Waldron, Arkansas. The Hodge boys are grandchildren of George and Daisy Watson of Watson, Oklahoma.



James turns 20

Happy birthday to James Clark of Chandler, Oklahoma, who turned 20 on April 23. His parents are Priscilla Fillmore-Clark and Monte Clark. James has one sister, Monica Clark. He is the grandson of the late Ben Filmore Sr. and Juanita Cass-Filmore of Oklahoma City and Colleen Clark.



Happy birthday to Mom

Happy birthday to Priscilla Fillmore-Clark who celebrated her 51st birthday on April 15. She is the daughter of the late Ben Filmore Sr. and Juanita Filmore of Oklahoma City.

Happy third birthday to William Wederski

William Wederski of Denver, Colorado, turned three years old on February 20. Will is named for his great-grandfather, William Philip Pipkin, who was proud to be a Choctaw. Happy birthday from Mama and Daddy, Grammie and Granddaddy, Auntie Maevers and Great-Grandma Pipkin. We love you!

Original enrollee to celebrate 100th

Original enrollee Ruby (Davis) Hibdon will be 100 years old on June 2. She is the daughter of Burk and Sarah Davis. She loves to study her Bible, play dominoes and Bingo. Ruby has six children and one stepson, Lottie Marks, Julia Dane, Frances Taylor, W.B. Bailey, W.C. Hibdon and Johnny Gilliland; many grand, great and great-great grandchildren, and a host of friends. Happy birthday!



Jack Risner turns 80

Family and friends honored Jack Risner on his 80th birthday, March 6, with a surprise celebration. The party was held at the home of his sister in Sunnyvale, California, and there were 78 in attendance. Jack was born and raised in Bennington, Oklahoma, and is the son of original enrollee Jack Risner Sr. and Minnie May Risner. He has lived in Sunnyvale for 60 years but returns to Bennington annually to visit. Jack's daughter, Barbara Foster, and family and Jack's sister, Frances Cooley, and family hosted the event. We would like to thank all those who attended this very special celebration and special thanks to Betty and Jack Holliday and Jackie and Leonard Denney for all of their assistance.



Nursery News

Savannah Jo Whitley

Savannah Jo Whitley was born six weeks early on January 26, 2004. She weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces. The very happy and proud parents are Belinda (Vranda) and Steve Whitley. Grandparents are Dianna, Gene, Robert, Joyce, Jack and Annette. We all think she is a very special angel.



Kyron Clifford Tobey

Ray and Ann Tobey of Hartshorne, Oklahoma, are announcing the birth of a grandson. Kyron Clifford Tobey was born at 8:10 p.m. January 9, 2004, at W.W. Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The son of Darren and Kris Tobey, Kyron weighed in at 8 pounds, 2.5 ounces, and was 19 inches long. Grandparents include Clifford Strehlow and Michele Houser, both of Tonawanda, New York.



Grace D'Ann Brence

Randy and Dee Dee and Big Brother Clayton proudly announce the birth of their miracle, "Gracie," born at 10:43 a.m. on January 30, 2004, at Integris Baptist Hospital, Oklahoma City. Gracie weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 20 inches long.

She is the 30th great-grandchild of the late Capitola Lowe of Antlers, Oklahoma, and the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Louis Mackey.



JaeNa Audry Brianne Hunter

Wesley Hunter is proud to announce the birth of his baby sister, JaeNa, born on March 6, 2004, at McAlester Regional Health Center. She weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. JaeNa's proud parents are Billy and Robin Hunter of Hugo, Oklahoma. Her grandparents are Robert and Janice Finch of Hugo, Bill Hunter of Stringtown, Oklahoma, and Betsie Hunter of Hugo. Her great-grandparents are Joe Thompson, Leola Finch, Pauline Hunter and Jessie Lawrence, all of Hugo.



Makhan Oktaha Harjo

The Rev. Simmon Harjo and Tina Harjo of Red Oak, Oklahoma, would like to announce the arrival of their new baby boy, Makhan Oktaha Harjo, on February 19, 2004. He weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19 inches long. Makhan was gladly received into the home by big brother, Caleb Dylan, and big sisters, Acee Dawn and Rayna Jean. Makhan's grandparents are the Rev. Wayne and Lucille Harjo of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Rita West of Okeman, Oklahoma. Choctaw great-grandparents are Elizabeth York-Thompson of Marlow, Oklahoma, and the late Wilburn Thompson.



Five generations

Five generations of the Samuel David Nowabbi family include Nowabbi's great-granddaughter, Monica Colliver; great-great-granddaughter, Bailee Bressler; granddaughter, Jacqueline (Penny) Joyce; daughter, Carol (Nowabbi) Pearson, and former wife, Betty Jane (Nowabbi) Winship.



Alla Himmita 4-H Club entered the 4-H Cloverbud Share the Fun and bread baking contest held at the Crowder Choctaw Center. Both events were big hits this year. Share the Fun is held for all Cloverbud members age 5-8. There were 24 acts from six clubs. All participants received a Cloverbud Participation Rosette for each act that they entered. Pictured are OSU Extension 4-H Director Gregg Owens; Alla Himmita 4-H President Heather Griffiths; Sapokni HCE Member Ailene Mize; Alla Himmita Secretary Tina Mize; DaNetta Wilkerson and Cherish Wilkerson, Treasurer, and Crowder 4-H Friend Kelsie Roach. The Sapokni HCE helps work the Pittsburg County Jr. Livestock Show Concession.

Buddy Mackey is Deputy Grand Lecture



Buddy Mackey of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, is a Deputy Grand Lecture for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Mason of the State of Oklahoma, for the Masonic Districts of 35, 36, 37 and 38 in Oklahoma. He teaches the Esoteric Work of the Masonic Order. Buddy is a member of Valley Lodge #6 and has belonged to the Masonic Fraternity for 45 years.

His paternal family were original Dawes Roll members whose land allotments were between Davis and Wynnewood, Oklahoma, in Garvin County.

Buddy is retired. He served in the U.S. Navy for five years aboard the Air Craft Carrier, USS Princeton. He and his wife, Beverly, have two daughters, Jo Renee Miler of Oklahoma City and Mickie Grimmert of Pauls Valley, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Buddy says the things he is most proud of are his church, family, Choctaw heritage, being a Choctaw veteran and being a Mason.

Scout Jeremy Riley earns Eagle Award



On April 3, Jeremy Riley attained the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America – the Eagle Scout. The Eagle Award is achieved by only 4% of Boy Scouts across the country. Each scout earning this rank must meet several requirements, including completing a service project for his community, school or church. Jeremy planned and supervised construction of a sidewalk at First United Methodist Church in Azle, Texas.

Under the direction of Scoutmaster Jeff Mace with Boy Scout Troop 147, Jeremy held positions of senior patrol leader, patrol leader and quartermaster and has earned 31 merit badges. He is a brotherhood member of the National Order of the Arrow which is a service and honor camping organization in the Boy Scouts of America.

A sophomore at Springtown High School, he is a member of FFA and a member of First Christian Church, Paradise, Texas. Jeremy is the son of Steve and Valerie Riley. He has two brothers, Jacob and Jeff, and is the grandson of Casper Riley of Springtown, Texas, and Carlos Thomas of Corsicana, Texas. He is the great-great-grandson of the late Jo Willie Clover Hunter, an original enrollee.

Happy birthday, Caleb

Caleb Dylan Harjo will turn four years old on May 18. Caleb is the son of the Rev. Simmon and Tina Harjo of Red Oak, Oklahoma. Happy birthday "Big Brudder" from Mom, Dad, Acee, Rayna and Makhan.



Patrick is turning seven

Patrick Stafford will be seven years old on May 11. He is the son of Heather Meggs and Patrick Stafford. Patrick's great-great-grandfather was original enrollee Elijah E. Meggs, former Postmaster at Fort Towson, Oklahoma. Patrick lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, and his grandfather, Jim Meggs Jr., lives close by in Tempe, Arizona.



Celestial celebrates fifth

Celestial Rose Campbell will celebrate her fifth birthday on May 5. She is the daughter of Angela Campbell of Caddo, Oklahoma, and Robert Campbell of Denison, Texas. Celestial will celebrate with her cousin, Kade Scott, who turns two on May 11. Kade is the son of Kris and Evie Scott of Caddo. They will celebrate their birthday at Chuckie Cheese.



Moore, Brantner announce wedding date

Robert Moore and Debra Brantner of Pendleton, Oregon, are sharing their good news. They will be united in marriage at 3 p.m. August 28, 2004, at Roy Railey Park in Pendleton.

Robert was born in December 1965 in Prineville, Oregon, to Ray and Nellie Moore. His father and grandmother, Katie Barnhill-Moore are also registered Choctaw tribal members. In 1976, his family moved to Pendleton where they stayed until after Robert graduated in 1984. Shortly thereafter Robert married and became a father. Sadly that marriage didn't last, but his sons are also registered Choctaw members. Several years passed and eventually Robert moved to Warrenton, Oregon, where he met Debra in October 2001.

Debra was born in 1974 and raised in Portland, Oregon. She went to school in several different places in the Portland area and eventually landed in Sandy, Oregon, where she graduated from high school in 1992. Shortly thereafter, Debra and her family moved to Long Beach, Washington.

Happy 18th birthday

Happy birthday to Junior Maturino of Joplin, Missouri, who turned 18 years old on April 17 – love, Mom, Tony, Joseph, Sequoyah, Marco and all your family in Oklahoma, Missouri, Texas and Mexico.



Look who's eight

Joseph Martinez of Caney, Oklahoma, will celebrate his eighth birthday on May 23. Happy birthday from Mom, Dad, Junior, Marco and Sequoyah, and all your family from Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma and Mexico.



Keeleigh Henderson is turning three

Happy birthday to Keeleigh Henderson who is turning three years old on May 30, from your Mom, Dad, Bubba, Kenneth, Deletra and Aunt Sweetie.



Happy birthday

Guess who had a birthday on April 3 – the talented, gifted and stand-up comedian of the entire Miller family. She's my buddy, my friend, beautician, driver, helps me remember who and where I am. She takes me out for lunch, dinners, movies, yard sales. She's a blessing and has been for "oops" years. Happy birthday, Tamara. You are "it" and I love you – Mom.



Happy eighth birthday

This little beauty celebrated her ninth birthday on March 25 with an evening meal at Sunrise Buffet. She loves Chinese food. She celebrated with her extended family and best friend, Adrianna Wallace, at her home on March 27. Her family, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandma from Ada, Bethel and Wright City were all there to enjoy an Indian taco dinner with Gabi.



Gabi is a student at Finley Reese Elementary. She was chosen third grade Student of the Month for February. She is the daughter of Tamara Miller and granddaughter of Mary Watson-Miller of Wright City.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday wishes are sent to Harold Going of Ada whose birthday was March 3; Briana Going of Ada, April 10; Stryder Going of Ada, April 17; Helen Impson of Wright City, April 30, and Sherman "Bo" Miller of Broken Arrow, from Mary Watson-Miller of Wright City, Oklahoma.

Look who's growing up

Austin and Logan would like to wish their "Big" Brother Caleb a happy sixth birthday on May 12. Caleb loves to play soccer and is on the Durant Soccer team, "Ravens." He also likes to ride his bike and pretend he is the "Karate Kid." Caleb is the son of Matt and Lori Sullivan of Durant, Oklahoma. His grandparents are the Rev. Floyd and Nancy Peters of Antlers, Oklahoma, and Dale and Lois Sullivan of Haworth, Oklahoma. He has several aunts, uncles and cousins who would all like to say happy birthday and we love you!



Kira is Terrific Kid

Kira celebrated her tenth birthday on December 24. She is a fourth-grader at Washington Irving in Durant, Oklahoma. She is currently on the Superintendent's Honor Roll and was the Kiwanis Terrific Kid for October. She is involved with the Gifted and Talented for her school. She enjoys softball, basketball, and watching TV. Kira's parents are Stephanie Moore of Durant and Wayne Moore of Wright City, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Shirley and the late Daniel Barboan of Durant and Billy Paul and Mary Lou Baker of Bethel, Oklahoma.



Kerwin on honor roll

Kerwin celebrated his 13th birthday on December 15. He is a seventh-grader at Durant Middle School. He is currently on the Principal's Honor Roll and enjoys art and playing basketball. He is the son of Stephanie Moore of Durant and Wayne Moore of Wright City, Oklahoma. His grandparents are Shirley and the late Daniel Barboan of Durant, Oklahoma, and Billy Paul and Mary Lou Baker of Bethel, Oklahoma.



Twins turn eight

Fraternal twins Mahli and Bethanie Webster of Indian Head, Maryland, celebrated their eighth birthday on April 30. They are descendants of Harrison Wood. This year we camped at the Northeastern Intertribal Powwow in Brandywine, Maryland. On the occasion of our brother's wedding and after, we've hosted family members from Houston, Needville and Fort Worth, Texas, and from Seattle, Washington. Mahli and Bethanie are home-schooled and attend Potomac Heights Christian Academy Homeschool Umbrella as well as Mahli's attendance at Indian Head Elementary School in 2004.



Tori turns four

Victoria "Tori" Lynn Thomas celebrated her fourth (and first due to Leap Year) birthday on February 29 with her parents, Valerie and Joe Thomas, and brother, Michael, of Gilbert, Arizona. She had a party with friends and their parents and received a Barbie bicycle. Her grandparents are Mike and Barbara Thomas of Ninnekah, Oklahoma, and Roger and Robin Butler and Mike and Phyllis Maxwell of Sapulpa, Oklahoma.



Sean celebrates 14th

Sean Andrew Flanagan celebrated his 14th birthday on April 16. Sean is the son of Mark Flanagan of Walters, Oklahoma, and Michele Flanagan of Lawton, Oklahoma. He has one brother, Conner. Sean likes basketball, baseball, track and computer games. His grandparents are Mike and Barbara Thomas of Ninnekah, Oklahoma, and Funston and Frances Flanagan of Walters, Oklahoma.



Happy tenth birthday

Connor Ryan Flanagan will celebrate his tenth birthday on May 20. He lives in Lawton, Oklahoma, with his mother, Michele Flanagan, and brother, Sean. Connor loves to draw, do riddles, read, hike and be in Boy Scouts. Connor's dad is Mark Flanagan of Walters, Oklahoma. His grandparents are Mike and Barbara Thomas of Ninnekah, Oklahoma, and Funston and Frances Flanagan of Walters.



Happy third birthday

Kendon Cain Harley would like to wish his big brother, Thunder Lee Reese McKinney, a happy third birthday on April 25. Proud parents are Diana Marie McKinney and Erik Reese Harley of Idabel. Proud grandparents are David and Marsha McKinney and Una and Mike "Bear" Harley, all of Idabel. Great-grandparents are Olen and Mande Durant of Sobol, Oklahoma, Roy and Eiffelene Harley of Idabel, and the late Raymond McKinney of Idabel. Great-great-grandparent is Ella Jones of Idabel.



Belated happy birthday wishes

Wishes for a happy birthday are sent to Maude Durant on January 30, and Melton Lee Arron on February 28. Melton turned three years old. Also, to Diana Marie McKinney on March 2; David Ray McKinney Jr. on March 24 and Anthony Wayne McKinney on March 25 – from Thunder Lee Reese McKinney, Kendon Cain Harley and Ayanna Bernadette Carpenter.

Happy 17th birthday

Happy 17th birthday to Regina Annette McKinney on April 4 from Mike, Keith, Ayanna and all the other family members.

Alexa is Tiny Miss Sunburst Queen 2004

Alexa Jo Coley, 19 months old, of Clayton, Oklahoma, won the Sunburst Beauty Pageant held March 21 in McAlester, Oklahoma. She was crowned "McAlester Area Tiny Miss Sunburst Queen 2004." Alexa also won medals for the prettiest hair and best attire. She is the daughter of Talena Womack of Clayton and Roger Coley of Wilburton. She is the granddaughter of Rocky and Cheryl Burleson of Clayton and Joe and Mary Coley of Wilburton. Great-grandparents are J.R. and Sally Denton of Clayton and Larry Burleson of Yanush, Oklahoma.



Honor student turns eight

Birthday wishes go out to Gabriel Louis of Durant, Oklahoma. He turned eight years old on April 22. Gabriel attends Northwest Heights Elementary School where he is a second-grader. His accomplishments include Personal Computer Success Award, Principal's Award and Superintendent's Honor Roll. Gabriel enjoys basketball, baseball, bike riding, computers, football, school, soccer, video games, and being with family and friends. He is the son of Terry Louis. His MiMi is Lillian Louis of Dallas, Texas. He is the great-grandson of the late Rev. William and Mrs. Pearley Louis of Wright City, Oklahoma. Gabriel would also like to wish his Uncle Ray a happy birthday!



Look who's turning two!

Ethan Edward Beddo will celebrate his second birthday on May 28. Ethan was born in Durant to Israel and Krista Beddo. He has an older sister, Virginia. Grandparents include Jeff and Lynette Hinton of Talihina and Justin and Pam Beddo. We wish you a happy birthday. Love you, baby!



Honor students

Lewis and Chance Haiakanubbi, full-blood Choctaw/Chickasaw first-graders at Capitol Hill Elementary, are both on the Principal's Honor Roll. They have also been chosen as Students of the Month and they have perfect attendance. Their parents are Lawanna and Lewis Haiakanubbi of Oklahoma City. Their brothers and sister are Dustin, Raymond and Amber. Grandparents are Doris Kaniatobe of Oklahoma City, David Lewis of Tishomingo, Oklahoma, the late Lewis Haiakanubbi Sr. of Idabel and the late Juanita Thomas of Oklahoma City. Also, their aunts and uncles would like to say, "Keep up the good work!"





A group gathers to sing Choctaw hymns at Crowder's Wild Onion Dinner.

Wild Onion Dinners



Councilperson Perry Thompson, Evelyn James and Chief Gregory E. Pyle are ready for the Wild Onion Dinner at the Choctaw Community Center in Hugo.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle visits with Aden Griffiths and Skylor James Griffiths at Crowder.



Councilperson James Frazier applauds Crowder's Wild Onion King and Queen, John and Dottie Spring.



Aileen McKenzie, Benny Lee Gibson and Mary Louise Davis enjoy visiting at Hugo.



Baby clothes donated to Chi Hullo Li

Upon receiving a donation of baby clothes from Carter's Baby Clothing Company, the McCurtain County Boys and Girls Club passed the gift on to Chi Hullo Li. Pictured are Ronda Davis-Callahan, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club, and Renea Baughman, Director of Chi Hullo Li.

2nd Annual Southern Native's Fast-Pitch Tournament

May 22, 2004

Ardmore Softball Complex, Ardmore, Oklahoma

Men's	Women's
1st Place: Jackets-Caps-Team Trophy	1st Place: Jackets-Caps-Team Trophy
2nd Place: T-shirts-Team Trophy	2nd Place: T-shirts-Team Trophy
3rd Place: Team Trophy	3rd Place: Team Trophy
MVP Award	MVP Award
Entry fee: \$150.00	Entry fee: \$100.00

Double Elimination 15-Man Roster
Deadline for Entry: May 19, 2004

For more information, contact **Kenny Morgan** at (580) 224-0611
or **Craig Wallace** at (580) 277-9217

Cashier's Check or Money Order ONLY

Make payable to:

Kenny Morgan
402 2nd SW
Ardmore, OK 72401



Councilperson Charlotte Jackson, Bertha Minco and Ann Jordan are on hand for the dinner at Hugo.



CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA CHAHTA HOLISSO AKANCHI CHOCTAW BOOK STORE LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT 1-888-932-9199

QTY	DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS	PRICE	TOTAL
	Chahta Anumpa Vmmona (First Choctaw Words) - by Choctaw Nation **NEW**	@ \$10.00	=
	The Choctaw of Oklahoma - by James Milligan **NEW**	@ 30.00	=
	Large Choctaw Hymnal - large print	@ 10.00	=
	Large Choctaw Hymnal - leather - large print	@ 15.00	=
	Small Choctaw Hymnal	@ 12.00	=
	The New Testament	@ 19.00	=
	Beginning Choctaw Grammar - by Choctaw Nation	@ 8.00	=
	Choctaw Language & Culture - by Marcia Haag & Henry Willis	@ 30.00	=
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	Choctaw Language Sampler - by Charley Jones	@ 18.00	=
	Foot Steps of a Durant Choctaw - by Randle Durant	@ 25.00	=
	Walking the Choctaw Road - by Tim Tingle **NEW**	@ 18.00	=
	Choctaw Traditional Hymns CD - by Choctaw Nation	@ 10.00	=
	Choctaw Traditional Hymns cassette tape - by Choctaw Nation	@ 10.00	=
	Choctaw Nation - by Allison Lassieur	@ 18.00	=
	Choctaw Social & Ceremonial - by Charles Eastman Brown	@ 15.00	=
	History of the Indians of the United States - by Angie Debo	@ 20.00	=
	American Indian Medicine - by Virgil J. Vogel	@ 26.00	=
	Choctaw Music and Dance - by James H. Howard & Victoria Lindsey Livine	@ 16.00	=
	The Rise & Fall of the Choctaw Republic - by Angie Debo	@ 18.00	=
	A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma - by Muriel H. Wright	@ 17.00	=
	Indian Territory Cookbook - The Early Years	@ 29.00	=
Choctaw Nation Children's Books			
	Pashofa Pole	@ 20.00	=
	The Boy Who Almost Lost His Name	@ 20.00	=
	Choctaw Jacks	@ 20.00	=
	The Stomachache Tree	@ 20.00	=
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TOTAL			

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Mail to: Choctaw Bookstore, PO Box 668, Durant, OK 74702-0668

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USDA releases \$15 million for Conservation Innovation Grants

On March 22, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released the interim final rule for Conservation Innovation Grants, announcing that \$15 million will be available to fund selected grant proposals. Farmers and ranchers will benefit by having new technologies to protect the environment and comply with federal, state, and local regulations.

Conservation Innovation 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 be received in the NRCS National Office by May 28, 2004.

Selected applicants may receive grants up to 50% of the total project cost. Applicants must provide nonfederal matching funds for at least 50% of the 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 is available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig>, your local NRCS or Conservation District office located in the county where you live.

5th Sunday Night Gospel Singing

If you would like to participate or listen to Choctaw hymn singing you are welcome to a 5th Sunday Night Choctaw Singing congregation. The next 5th Sunday singing will be on May 31 at Springhill Presbyterian Church, Honobia, Oklahoma.

Choctaws from various churches in McCurtain County organized on August 31, 1969, at St. Matthew Presbyterian Church in Broken Bow and have been singing on the 5th Sunday night ever since. The churches rotate these 5th Sunday Night Choctaw Hymn Singings by invitation. If more than one church requests the singing, it is decided by a vote of the congregation.

Each service begins with a fellowship dinner at 5:30 p.m. and singing begins after the Devotional Service at 6:30 and lasts until each church presents their songs. The business meeting, services and songs are conducted in the Choctaw language. It is by consensus, once you enter the place of singing, only the Choctaw language is requested. Your church is welcome to participate with Choctaw hymns.

Joseph Wolf Birthday Gospel Singing

The 9th Annual Joseph Wolf Birthday Gospel Singing will be held at 7 p.m. May 28 at the Bryan County Community Center, Durant, Oklahoma. Featured guests are Faith, Hope and Love of Calera; Crossroads of Tahlequah; and The Gastineaus of Ada. Many more groups will be on hand. A concession stand will be available and a 12 o'clock supper will be served. Bring your quartet, trios, duets and solos. MCs are Russell Horn and Ramauldo Garcia.

Buffalo Presbyterian Gospel Singing

The 32nd Annual Gospel Singing at Buffalo Presbyterian Church, nine miles southeast of Smithville, Oklahoma, will be May 22. Follow the signs on Hwy. 4, turn south at Indian Mission Baptist Church. Supper is 5:30-6:30 p.m. with singing starting at 6:45. Class singers and specials are welcome as well as listeners. Emcee is the Rev. Mel Gaines of Dallas, Texas. Sound system will be provided by Lee Noah Jr. and Willis Wesley of Broken Bow.

EASTER



Choctaw Nation Head Starts and Day Cares throughout the 10 1/2 counties enjoy a beautiful day for hunting Easter eggs.



Princess Pageants

DISTRICT 11

Applications are being accepted for the District 11 Choctaw Princess Pageant to be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 22, at the Choctaw Community Center in McAlester. Deadline for applications is May 11. For information, please call 918-423-1016.

Applicants must be at least 1/16 Choctaw and a resident of the Choctaw Nation. Age requirements are Sr. Miss - 18-23; Jr. Miss - 13-17, and Little Miss - 8-12. All participants must be required age on or before the pageant in Tushka Homma.




Standing, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Tribal Councilman Delton Cox, Deloris Cox, Carol Harris and Howard Bryant. Seated, Mildred Gish, Bill Coleman, Ruth Coleman and Wanda Stewart.

Spiro Chamber of Commerce hosts dinner

Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Councilpersons Charlotte Jackson and Delton Cox and several Choctaw senior citizens from the Spiro area recently attended a dinner hosted by the Spiro Chamber of Commerce at Spiro school.



Councilperson Charlotte Jackson and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.



Check out the
New Website
from
Choctaw Nation Home Finance

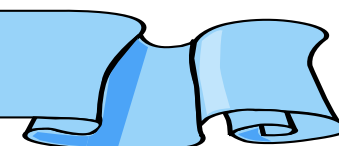
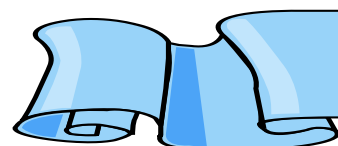
It's so easy and convenient for you to apply online to purchase or refinance a home at
www.choctawhomefinance.web-loans.com

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.

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

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
May 18	Tulsa	5:30 p.m.
June 1	Idabel	10:30 a.m.
June 10	Coalgate	5:30 p.m.



Beryl Dendy Urice

Beryl Dendy Urice, 98, passed away on March 20, 2004. She was born on August 1, 1905, in Elmore City, Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, to Ann Leonora (Williams) Dendy and Daniel Baker Dendy.

She married C.A. "Bill" Urice, an oil well drilling contractor, on June 29, 1922. She was a homemaker and made a home for her family in several towns and cities in Oklahoma and Texas. For the past 16 years she lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Wynona and John Morrow of New Canaan, Connecticut. She was a loving and energetic wife, mother and grandmother whose prime interest in life was her family.

She was among the final enrollees on the original tribal rolls for the Oklahoma Choctaw Nation and was very proud of her Indian heritage. Her great-great-grandfather, Moshulatubbee, was a District Chief of the Choctaw tribe.

She was a long-time active member of the First Baptist Church in Pryor, Oklahoma. During the time she lived in New Canaan, she was a member of the Congregational Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, three brothers and three sisters.

Survivors include her children, Joe Urice and wife, Rogene, of Kerrville, Texas, Wynona Morrow and husband, John, of New Canaan, Billie Byers of Fort Worth, Texas, and James Urice and wife, Ramona, of Norman, Oklahoma; 13 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.



Mason Enright Bohanon

Mason Enright Bohanon "Hatak Komassa," 17 months, passed away unexpectedly on March 19, 2004, at his home.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Julius Bohanon and Garvan and Jacquelyn (Enright) Bethel.

Survivors include his parents, Joseph Bohanon and Joyous Bethel of Hattiesburg, Mississippi; two sisters, Hannah Hartman of Santa Anna, Texas, and Eva-Louise Bohanon of Oakland, California, and grandmother, Agnes Bohanon of Hugo, Oklahoma.



Bill Christian

Bill Christian, 81, of Heavener, Oklahoma, passed away April 5, 2004, in Heavener.

A longtime resident of Heavener, Mr. Christian was a decorated Choctaw veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army. He was of the Baptist faith and a member of the American Legion and Disabled Veterans of America.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, R.P. and Hawes Christian, and three sisters, Geraldine Bissell, Leon Mae Sterling and Betty Holley.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda Christian; daughter, Sandra Legendre and husband, James, of Yelm, Washington; son, Paul Christian and wife, Lorraine, of Brookville, Ohio; brother, Bob Cunningham and wife, Pam, of La Habra, California; seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Imogene (Stewart) Belvin

Imogene (Stewart) Belvin, 54, of Dallas, Texas, passed away February 12, 2004, at Dallas. She was born January 1, 1950, at Idabel, Oklahoma, the daughter of Steven Sr. and Eunice (Collins) Stewart.

Imogene was a project liaison for the superintendent's office of Dallas Independent School District. She enjoyed painting, reading the Bible, and spending time with family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Steven Stewart Jr.; and a sister, Patricia Ann McDaniel.

Survivors include her husband, Dwight Belvin of Dallas; a daughter, Regina Belvin of Dallas; a sister, Yvonne Sue Tom of Idabel; numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and a host of friends.



Carl Lee Dixon

Carl Lee Dixon, 85, of Greensboro, North Carolina, passed away February 28, 2004. A native of Guilford County, North Carolina, he was born on December 30, 1918, the son of Berry Davis Dixon and Nettie (Dye) Dixon.

He was a member of Memorial Presbyterian Church and a veteran of the U.S. Army having served during World War II.

Mr. Dixon was the retired owner and operator of Dixon's Gulf Station and had worked at Carlson Farms Country Club.

His parents and two brothers, Roy Dixon and Berry Davis Dixon Jr., preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Sarah (Hardage) Dixon; two daughters, Cathy Stultz of McLeansville, North Carolina, and Sammie Nichols of Charlotte, North Carolina; three grandchildren, Mindy Stultz, Jeffrey Nichols and Mike Nichols; four great-grandchildren; stepmother, Bessie Dixon of Madison, North Carolina; two brothers, Ross Dixon and wife, Edna, of Randleman, North Carolina, and Jack Dixon and wife, Oneida, of Summerfield, North Carolina; four sisters, Ora Price, Lottie Mae Hawkins and Frances Thomas and her husband, Harold, all of Greensboro, and Evelyn Moore and husband, David, of Madison; and a sister-in-law, Beatrice Dixon of Summerfield.

Constance Tanner Wesley

Constance Tanner Wesley, 4, passed away February 29, 2004, at Atoka Memorial Hospital, Atoka, Oklahoma. She was born March 24, 1999, in Oklahoma City, the daughter of Tim and Heather Wesley.

A sister, Shelby Lynn Snow, preceded her in death on March 19, 2000.

Survivors include her parents, Tim and Heather Wesley of the home in Atoka; grandparents, James and Dolly Williams and Woodrow and Vivian Morris, all of Atoka, and Charles and Madeline Snow of Tempe, Arizona; great-grandparents, Linnie Mae Williams and Reed and Lizzie Williams, all of Atoka, and Mae and Keith Hill of Tushka, Oklahoma; numerous aunts, uncles and other relatives and many very dear and loved friends.



David Holloway

David Holloway, 68, of Boswell, Oklahoma, passed away March 4, 2004, at Paris, Texas. He was born June 1, 1935, in Cade, Oklahoma, the son of Roland Holloway and Neva (Olson) Holloway and was raised in the Boswell area.

David moved to Dallas and returned to Boswell four years ago after retiring from truck driving. He married Mary A. Waters on June 2, 1956, in Irving, Texas.

His parents preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Mary A. Holloway; two daughters, Kay Haines and Mary C. Holloway, both of Boswell; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Joe DeWayne "Bubba" Rodgers

Joe DeWayne "Bubba" Rodgers, 37, of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, passed away on October 5, 2003. He was born April 18, 1966, at DeQueen, Arkansas.

A lifetime resident of the Broken Bow area, he was a skidder driver and loved hunting, fishing and horses.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Nettie (Whitehead) and William Charles "Willie" Rodgers and Opal (Wilson) and James Edward "Ed" Karr, and an uncle, C.J. "Sonny" Rodgers.

Survivors include his father, Joe Ray Rodgers, and mother and stepfather, Reba (Karr) and Gene Osterdock; children, Joshua DeWayne Rodgers and Maria Dawn Shomo; sister and brother-in-law, Ellen and Robert Bean; nieces and nephews, Erica, Randy, Rhiannon and Ethan Bean; stepbrothers and stepsister, Wesley and Anita, Cecil and Marta Osterdock, Tanya and Albert Soliz, Genea and Michael Lott; six nephews and four nieces; aunts and uncles, Louise Hendrix, Harold Wayne Rodgers, George and Billie June Rodgers, Everett Lee "Chucky" and Pat Karr, Jeannie and Jay Norvill, Vicky Hillard, Sandy Gallagher, James Earl and Wanda Smith, Claude and Olivia Smith, Eddie and Dottie Smith, and a host of family and friends.



Eulala Grace "Prill" Blankenship

Eulala Grace (Prill) Blankenship, 66, passed away March 16, 2004. She was born on December 20, 1937, in Boswell, Oklahoma, the daughter of Oscar Kermit "Butch" Self and Clara Louise "Granny Bell" Self.

She attended Soper Schools and on December 20, 1952, she married J.R. Blankenship in DeQueen, Arkansas. They celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on December 20, 2002.

In 1957, after ranching, truck driving and sawmilling, they moved to Farmington, New Mexico. After a long working relationship with Shell Oil Company, they moved back to Soper. In 1971, they went in partnership and purchased B&E Grocery where they eventually became sole owners. The B&E was a cornerstone of Soper and they operated the store for 30 years before selling it in September 2002.

Prill was considered a true friend to all. She was a working wife and mother, sang beautifully, and could sew anything. She loved her close-knit family and was a promoter of get-togethers at holidays, birthdays, or any other excuse that called for family and friends to come together. She was a member of the Soper Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Oscar Kermit Self Jr., and two infant children.

Survivors include her husband, J.R. Blankenship; daughter and son-in-law, Clariece and Bill McClure; granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Gina and Scotty Van Worth; great-granddaughter and namesake, Alyssa Grace Van Worth, and sister and brother-in-law, Chockie and Bob Edge, all of Soper; several nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Catherine (Taylor) Sexton

Catherine (Taylor) Sexton, 78, passed away January 29, 2004, at Atoka, Oklahoma. She was born December 28, 1925, at Finley, Oklahoma, to Archibald and Lena (Noah) Taylor.

Catherine spent her childhood in Finley until school age. She attended the Goodland Indian School in Hugo, Oklahoma. While at Goodland she met Daniel Sexton, her future husband. After completing the 11th grade, and while waiting for Daniel to return from serving his country overseas during World War II, she worked as a rivet girl helping build aircraft at Douglas Field, now known as Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. When Daniel returned, they were married on August 7, 1945, and to this union God blessed them with four children.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel Sexton, on July 8, 2003; a granddaughter, Catherine Fixico; her parents, Archibald and Lena Taylor; a sister, Rhoda Notah, and three sisters-in-law, Edith Greenwood, Beatrice Casey and Betty Watkins.

Survivors include two sons, Michael Sexton and Daniel Terry Sexton; two daughters, Lena Maturino and Cleta Mata; 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Sexton was a very special wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.



Marjorie Imogene Thielke

Marjorie Imogene Thielke, 77, passed away March 3, 2004, in Carson City, Nevada. She was born January 31, 1927, to Benton Haynes Petty and Pauline Ursula (Trueblood) Petty in Terre Haute, Indiana. She was one of five children who were separated among relatives when she was 6 years old, after their father died. Her mother was an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

As a child, she lived with her Choctaw grandmother at her hotel in Randsburg, California, in the Mojave Desert, among other places. She graduated from high school in Fallon, Nevada.

She married Raymond Thielke in 1946 after they met in Washington, D.C., where they were both working for the U.S. Navy. They later divorced. In addition to working for the U.S. Navy, Marjorie worked as a cartographer for the U.S. Geological Survey.

Marjorie was active in the civil rights movement in Washington, D.C., in the 1960s. She had a keen artistic eye, working in needlecrafts, sewing, woodworking, painting and beading, and other media as well.

She was preceded in death by two older brothers, Curtis and Bryan Petty. It is unknown whether her other siblings survive her.

Survivors include her former husband, Ray, of Carson City; son, Wesley Thielke of Hillsborough, New Jersey; daughters, Evelyn Greene of Louisville, Colorado, and Nola Smith of Carmichael, California; grandchildren, Elizabeth, Emily, David and Daniel Thielke, Adam, Cody, Michael and Lisa Greene and Phoebe and Katherine Smith.

Michael DeWayne Cusher

Michael DeWayne Cusher, 28, passed away March 16, 2004, at Little Rock, Arkansas. He was born January 29, 1976, at Talihiina, Oklahoma, the son of Myrtle Williston of Idabel, Oklahoma. Michael had been a resident of McCurtain County for most of his life and a graduate of Broken Bow High School in 1994.

Michael and Annette Golliver were married on December 9, 1995, at Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was employed as a Correctional Officer and was a member of the Emergency Response Team at the Arkansas Department of Correction Diagnostic Unit. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing football and basketball. He was affiliated with Yasho United Methodist Church in Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

Michael was preceded in death by his grandfather, Lee Cusher Sr.; uncle, Lee Cusher Jr., and two cousins, Neko Dodson and Talao Noley.

Survivors include his wife, Annette Cusher; one son, Michael Adrian, and two daughters, Sara and Tori, all of Little Rock; his mother, Myrtle Williston of Idabel; two brothers, Kyzer and Chacen Williston, both of Idabel; maternal grandmother, Ennie Cusher of Broken Bow; four aunts, Susie Dodson of Broken Bow, Ada and Richard Smithson of Dallas, Texas, Sharon and Grayson Noley of Norman, Oklahoma, and Georgia and Charles Griffin of Horatio, Arkansas; five uncles, Elias Pete Cusher of Broken Bow, Alfred Cusher of Broken Bow, Eddie and Ruthie Cusher of McAlester, Oklahoma, Johnny Tonihka of Durant, Oklahoma and Kenneth and Leslie Tonihka of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and many cousins and friends.

Michael will be missed dearly by his family and all who knew him.



Mark Michael Filmore

Mark Michael Filmore, 45, passed away February 11, 2004, in Lawton, Oklahoma. He was born March 10, 1959, the son of Ben Filmore Sr. and Juanita Cass-Filmore.

Survivors include a daughter, Leslie Zorn of Omaha, Nebraska; a brother, Ben Filmore Jr., sisters, Priscilla Fillmore-Clark and Carla DeCoteau; nephews, James Clark and Jamie DeCoteau; nieces, Monica Clark, Ciani Filmore and Sheila Long.



Debra Sharon Filmore

Debra Sharon Filmore, 52, passed away February 6, 2004. She was born February 1, 1952, in Oklahoma City, the daughter of the late Ben Filmore Sr. and Juanita Cass-Filmore.

Debra attended Capitol Hill Sr. and Central Baptist Church, and was an artist and a baker.

Survivors include a brother, Ben Filmore Jr.; sisters, Priscilla Filmore-Clark and Carla DeCoteau, and a daughter, Ciani Filmore.



Charlie Frank Ogletree

Charlie Frank Ogletree, 84, passed away February 29, 2004, in St. Helena, California. He was born February 2, 1920, in Indianola, Oklahoma, to Katie Gertrude Nale and Charlie Frank Ogletree.

Charlie came to the Napa Valley in the late 1930s. During those first years in the valley, Charlie Frank worked at various ranches and also Oakville Grocery Store. Due to an early injury in his teens, he was not able to enlist in the military. He contributed to the war effort by working as a welder at Mare Island Shipyard. This is where he learned the welding and steel trade and met his sweetheart and wife of 56 years, LaVerne.

After leaving Mare Island, Charlie Frank and LaVerne decided to go into their own business. They first opened Ogletree's Machine Shop. Then they decided to build low-income apartments after seeing the need for housing for the elderly on a fixed income. His sons are still operating both of these businesses today. His contributions to the community are many and include a four-year term on the city council, driving an ambulance for Morrison Funeral Home, the Food Pantry and Brown Bag program, volunteer police reserves and a 54-year dedicated member of the Masonic Lodge. He was always interested and supportive of organizations that would better the lives of other Native Americans, specifically Native American children.

Charlie Frank enjoyed big game hunting and trophy fishing. He enjoyed all outdoor activities and vacations were most often spent camping. He owned a ranch in Oroville and loved going up there whenever time allowed. In Oroville, he enjoyed raising his own vegetables and stock for meat. He built his home in St. Helena so family and friends would surround him, which was the most important thing in Charlie Frank's life. When at home there he always had a small vegetable garden and all envied his tomatoes.

Not always having as intense a commitment to raising dozens of cats and small pets, including squirrels and birds, as his wife, LaVerne, in her memory Charlie Frank continued to nurture and care for these critters after his wife's passing two years prior to his own. This provided him comfort and company during his last years.

Survivors include his daughter, Dorothy, and her husband, Mike, of Oroville; his sons, Ron, and wife, Sally; Bob and wife, Karen, Bill and Tod, all of St. Helena; two sisters, Meda and her husband, Cy Maxwell, of Placerville and Tilla Neller of St. Helena; brother, Larry McKivergan and wife, Beverly, of Antioch; 16 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and several cousins in Oklahoma, Alabama and Georgia.

Margie Lee Evans

Margie Lee Evans, 69, of Norman, Oklahoma, passed away on March 15, 2004, in Norman. She was born January 14, 1935, in Lexington, Oklahoma, to Algie "Doc" Edwards and Grace Marie Walker.

Margie attended school at Lexington. After school she spent many years working at Norman Regional Hospital then went on to work in home health care. She enjoyed her children and grandchildren. She also enjoyed Gospel music and attending church and Bible study regularly.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Jimmy and Jerry Don; a granddaughter, Jessica Mulligan; and a beloved nephew, Quanah Gale Carr.

Survivors include sons, Ronnie Jones of Lexington and Billy Evans of Norman; three daughters, Marilyn Berry of Norman, Tammy Nunn and her husband, Bill, of Lindsay, and Kimberly Aiken and her husband, Gary, of Washington; a brother, Don Edwards and wife, Martha, of Norman; a sister, Kathy Carr and husband, Donnie, of Purcell; 18 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. She will be greatly missed by all.