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## Tribal Council holds session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in Regular Session April 9 to approve submission of several grant applications, including Social and Economic Development Strategies, William F. Goodling Even Start Literacy Programs, Teacher Quality Enhancement Recruitment and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools/Healthy Students.

Approval was given for oil and gas leases in Latimer, Pittsburg and Love counties on tribal land jointly owned by the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. Farming and grazing leases in Latimer and McCurtain counties were also approved.

Council members agreed to approve the donation of a 1998 vehicle to the Quinton Police Department.

The next Regular Session will be held May 14.

## **Hundreds** gather at historic **Skullyville** Cemetery in memory of ancestors' long walk More on Page 9

# Sitter receives U.S. Senate recognition

At first glance, Inez Sitter she modestly wonders why all seems frail. At 87 years old and 97 pounds, that's an understandable assumption. But don't be fooled. Mrs. Sitter is a lady of multiple strengths.

On April 5 in his office in Washington, D.C., U.S. Sen. James Inhofe recognized Sitter's dedication to education by presenting her a copy of Senate Resolution 253, passed in November in honor of six decades of service to Jones Academy.

the fuss.

"I've always thought education is very important. I tell the children to pay attention to everything they are being taught because they never know when they will need to use that knowledge," she said.

Several family members ac-



ington, D.C.

Mrs. Sitter's dedication comes naturally. She walks every day from her home to her office in the library and has no plans to retire. Her mother began working at Jones Academy at the age of 65 and retired ten years later. Inez initially planned to retire at 75 like her mother, but decided to keep working for as long as she felt like it. She married Frank Sitter on October 18, 1939, a union that lasted 62 years before he passed away. They were both born and raised in Hartshorne and continued to live there and raise their family. Frank began working at Jones Academy following four years in the military. He was assigned to the kitchen as "head baker," but could actually do it all. He transferred to plant management in 1971 and retired in 1979. After another year at Jones Academy, she and her husband would have a combined total of 100 years working for the government. Barbara, the youngest of the Sitters' three children, sadly tells that she is the only surviving sibling, but remembers that

"All Oklahomans can join me today in thanking Inez Sitter for her inspiring commitment to the community around her," said Sen. Inhofe.

Sitter began working in administration at Jones in March 1944. In 1983, Sitter assumed the position of tutorial coordinator for Jones Academy. She also served as director of the Foster Grandparents Program and is head librarian of the beautiful new Jones Academy Library. She has made a remarkable difference in the lives of the children at Jones Academy.

"This is awesome and I would like to thank everyone," Mrs. Sitter graciously comments, but

companied Mrs. Sitter to our nation's capitol - her daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and David Goddard; grandchildren, Allison and Andrew; great- nephew, Gregory Mahnker, and greatniece, Laura Mahnker. Several representatives of the Choctaw Nation also watched as Sen. Inhofe made his presentation.

"I consider it an honor to be here in Washington, D.C., to witness the recognition paid to a lady who has been such a positive influence in my life and many, many others," said Assistant Chief Mike Bailey.

Jones Academy Administrator Brad Spears and Executive Director of Choctaw Nation Education Programs Joy Culbreath were also among the group making the trip to honor Mrs. Sitter. "What Ms. Sitter has accom-

Brad Spears, Administrator of Jones Academy; Assistant Chief Mike Bailey; Inez Sitter; Sen. James Inhofe, and Joy Culbreath, Executive Director of Education.

plished is truly remarkable," said Spears. "She is an inspiration to the students and staff of Jones Academy. Her dedication and commitment is unparalleled. Ms. Sitter has set the standard for others to strive forward. I am fortunate to have an employee who has devoted her life to meeting the needs of our students."

"It's wonderful to see the work ethics that our elders have," said Culbreath. "Our youth can benefit by such a fine example."

Sitter enjoyed her first trip to the capitol very much and took in as many historical sights as possible. One of the first places she visited, and the one she wanted to see above all others, was the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian. She and her family were amazed at the impressive displays and thought the view from the third floor had to be the best in Wash-

See SITTER on Page 3

## Credit Department has several loan programs

The Choctaw Nation Credit and Loan Department, also known as the Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association, provides three types of loans for eigible applicants within the tribe's 10 1/2-county service area - Small Business Loans; Agricultural Loans; and Housing Loans for home purchases or home improvements. The current interest rate is 7%.

To be eligible to apply you must have a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe.

Micro-loans up to \$1,000 are also available for emergency home improvements and small businesses to be repaid within 12 months. To be eligible for a micro-loan, you must be Choctaw, possess a CDIB, and reside within the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation.

For more information, please call 580-924-8280 or 800-522-6170, ext. 2158 or 2161.



## Pocola Casino grand opening

The Choctaw Nation celebrated the grand opening of the newly expanded casino in Pocola with a ribboncutting and four days of special prizes, events, and entertainment in April.

"We're excited to bring a more fun, quality gaming entertainment experience to Pocola and the Fort Smith area," said Janie Dillard, Executive Director of Gaming. "Our new casino features dining and entertainment amenities that give players more value during their visit. With more games, more cash, and more excitement, Choctaw Casino is now more fun than ever."



#### Locating Jefferson Thompson gravesite Dear Editor,

Does anyone know where Jefferson Thompson's grave is located? Jeff died in or about March 1939 at the age of 29. It is believed he may be buried in Summerfield cemetery. Jeff left one brother, Jess Thompson, now deceased, and his wife, Lillie Thompson, my mother who is also deceased. Any help in locating Jeff Thompson's grave is appreciated. Thank you.

#### Jerry Thompson 3301 N. 1st Apt. 9-H Durant, OK 74701

### Wonderful care provided at hospital

#### **Dear Choctaw Nation**,

The family of Luke Austin Herell would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for the wonderful care that Luke received from the doctors and nurses when he was born January 13 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Choctaw Nation employees for all the prayers and support during our stay at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa with Luke.

#### **Tracing Robinson-Folsom-West ancestry** Dear Editor.

I am searching for more branches to add to my tree. I have hit a brick wall for Amsiah/Emziah Robinson, born about 1800 in North Carolina and died near Durant, Oklahoma. He married Emily Folsom, born about 1814 in Oktibbeha, Mississippi. Does anyone have any information on these two individuals? Their daughter, Isabel, married an unknown Nail, then to Thomas West of Francis, Oklahoma. I would greatly appreciate any help or photos. Please contact me: Tammy West, 229 E. 16, Ada, OK 74820; phone 580-436-5652; or e-mail, nightmarishly@itlnet.net.

#### **Genealogy Society receives donation**

#### **Dear Choctaw Nation.**

The donation to the McCurtain County Genealogy Society is greatly appreciated and it helped us to pay the balance of the indebtedness on our copy machine. People like you are what help us to preserve the history of McCurtain County and Oklahoma.

Wanda Gilbert, Editor, INTIKBA McCurtain County Genealogy Society

#### **USS Nitro AE-2 and AE-23 reunion**

#### **Dear Editor**,

The USS Nitro AE-2 and AE-23 Association is trying to locate ex-crew members for annual members. If you were a member of either ship or know of someone who was, please contact the Nitro's website at: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/nalc820/ ussnitro.htm. Thank you.

> **Bob Eberlein, vice president** USS Nitro AE Assn.

#### **Researching family history**

#### **Dear Editor**,

I am seeking information on my paternal great-great-grandfather, Asley Lamont Cart Wright Ritter, and my great-great-grandmother, Mary Ann Meriott Ritter. My paternal grandfather and grandmother were Thomas Franklin Ritter and Anna Louesa (Louisa) Tennessee Spears Ritter. My dad's name was Rolan Ritter. If anyone knows anything about these people, the information would be greatly appreciated. I would also like information on my great-great-grandparents on my grandmother's side - Nathanie Mason Spears and Margaret Ann Phillips Spears.

## 2606 Barnes

## **Choctaw language students receive awards** The School of Choctaw

Language of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma congratulates the Choctaw Language students who participated in the Third Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, held April 4 at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

High schools represented included Bokoshe, Colbert, Haileyville, Heavener, Kinta, Leflore, McAlester, Moyers, Silo, Talihina, and Wright City. Head Start classes in attendance were Broken Bow and Wright City.

Choctaw language students received awards in five of the six categories.

Spoken Language Presentation: Students were judged on the amount of language used, ease of language used, spirit of the performance, and presentation and poise. The class from Moyers High School presented a skit titled, "A Warm Sunny Day." Combined Choctaw Nation Head Start classes from Broken Bow and Wright City received a third place trophy for their presentation, "Nanta Ish Pisa?'

Language Presentation with Music/Dance: Entries were judged on the same criteria as in the Spoken Language. Talihina High School class sang a traditional Choctaw hymn.

Language Film, Video and Multi-Media: McAlester and Howe High School students were judged on the amount of language used in their entries, creativity in use of chosen media, and effort. The classes from McAlester received a third place trophy for their video of Choctaw dancers in traditional dress and stickball players in traditional attire.

Poster Art: Contest entries, with the theme of "Storytelling," were judged on use of the language theme, originality, and effort. Schools submitting posters were Bokoshe, Colbert, Kinta, Leflore, Silo, and Wright City. The language students from Leflore received a third place trophy. The Wright City class Doris Ritter Blaylock received a second place tro-

phy.



Broken Bow and Wright City Head Start students, working together, placed third at the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair. Pictured with the students are their parents, Choctaw Language instructor Eleanor Caldwell, and Terry Ragan, Director of the School of Choctaw Language.

## Essay wins first place

#### By Landa McClure

The importance of my native language, Choctaw, cannot be described in only a few minutes. Speaking my native language means the world to me. It has helped me communicate with my grandma, who is full-blood Choctaw. She taught me some simple words and phrases in Choctaw when I was little. My mom also taught me words. I learned words such as "pokni" which means grandmother and "chi hullo li" which means I love you or I care for you. She also taught me words such as "issa" (stop), "pisa" (look), "binili (sit), and "lohma" (be quiet). I learned phrases such as "sa hohchifo vut Landa" (My name is Landa) and "achiba" (leave me alone, I don't want to). It has always stuck with me and I have a drive to learn all I can about my language. My grandmother still helps me with pronunciation, and she helps me speak the language fluently so that I can carry on an entire conversation. I am getting better at learning my native tongue, but I still have a lot to learn. The Choctaw language is not only important to my immediate family, it is important to my extended family as well. Most of my family members can speak a little Choctaw. The older family members can speak fluently, and I hope to be able to speak just as well as they do. Almost all of my older family members are fullblood Choctaw, and they use the language when they are together. When I was younger, and even to this day, I sit and listen to what my grandmother is talking about with her siblings, in Choctaw of course. Now that I am older, I can understand what she is saying a lot better. Since she has been speaking Choctaw all of her life, and English is her second language, she speaks very fast. I can only catch some words that sound familiar. I hope that soon I will be able to keep up with my grandmother and understand everything that she says.

I have successful family members who have been loyal to their native language. One of my cousins, now a doctor, spoke Choctaw first. All of his children have Choctaw nicknames. Some of my cousins, who are younger than I am, have names that are in Choctaw. I plan to keep this tradition alive. If I have a daughter, I am going to name her either "Enchil" or "Fichik," which means Angel and Star in Choctaw. I am fortunate that I live in a community with a large Native American population. We are considered a "Native Town," but many natives do not know their native tongue. However, most people support native language classes and programs. A cultural awareness is increasing as the Choctaw Tribe promotes the revival of our heritage through activities such as pow-wows and festivals that encompass native activities and games. I also notice an increasing curiosity among the younger members of the tribe as they see the native customs relived before them. It is interesting to learn the ways of our ancestors and the language of our ancestors.

takes time and patience to learn all of the words and sounds but in the end, it is worth it. A lot of languages are dying because no one is taking time to teach or learn it. One can only learn so much in a



language class; the language should also be used at home to really learn how to use the language. The "elders" need to teach the younger ones their native language, so the language will not die. That is the only way it can survive. Everyone should learn some simple phrases and words they use every day. Keeping the language alive is an important factor to all tribes. It is not only teaching and understanding the language; it is keeping the language alive by passing it down as a part of the tribe's history, culture, and traditions. If you learn the language, it is easier to understand the rest of our heritage because it is all connected. Another important advantage is that it keeps communication with the older members of the tribe alive. Many of these older members have knowledge and wisdom that can not be learned in books. They are living books, full of history and experiences that have shaped us into the people we are today. They have personal stories that offer insights that are not found in books, but often the stories are not shared due to the language gap. This is a very important reason to learn my native language.

The good thing about the language programs in the public school systems is that anyone can learn Choctaw, not just Native Americans. My friend is not an Indian, but he can speak Choctaw as well as I can, and it is all because of the Choctaw language program at my school. He respects the language and tries his best to learn it. Once in a while, we will talk in Choctaw. It does take us a little while, but we try not to convert back to English. He has only had Choctaw for one year and he can speak the language better than some Indian students. Anyone can learn our language; it just takes the patience and determination to stick it out. I have learned that even non-Indians say that keeping our language is important. They say that when our language is spoken fluently, it is beautiful. I agree. I also think other languages are pretty, when they are spoken fluently. It is important to keep these languages alive because I feel that we are keeping the Native American culture alive. When one learns all they can about his/her own language, it helps him/her find out and understand themselves. It means a lot to me to learn my native language, and I will do my part, just as my family has, by teaching the language to my children. Yakoke!

Pocola, OK 74902

### Student appreciates encouragement

#### **Dear Choctaw Nation**,

My name is Sherri Lynn Garza; I am 16 years of age and a junior in high school. I would like to give thanks to a few people for the support they gave me during my school pageant - my mother, Sherri Foley-Bohannon; stepfather, Michael Bohannon; step-grandparents, Douglas and Wanda Bohannon; Mike and Vicky Amos and the Bethel Community. Out of seven girls, I was the only Indian participant. The support from my friends and family helped me to be strong. I feel I represented not only the Choctaws in the community but also all Indians everywhere. I learned that as long as you are true to yourself and work hard that no one can take that feeling of accomplishment away. It makes you go forth and try other things that may be of interest.

The step dance that I performed during the talent competition was a style of dance that not too many people have seen before. It was new to the people in my area and to the judges as well. It is a nationally recognized style of dance that colleges and universities perform and compete. Therefore there was a negative and a positive - the negative was the scoring on the step dance was low; the positive was after the pageant was over, I was approached by a local dance studio instructor who was interested in learning the dancing technique. This is where the support of my family and friends came in to play. Without them to encourage me to compete and introduce my dance, I wouldn't have had this learning experience. The outcome isn't always winning the competition but being a winner to yourself.

Also, a special thanks to my grandmother, Myrtle (Johnico-Foley) King for always believing in me.

Gregory E. Pyle Mike Bailey Chief The Official Assistant Chief **Monthly Publication** of the **Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma** Judy Allen, Editor

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**Book and Literature:** Haileyville High School entered books to be judged on use of language, originality in presentation and illustration, and effort. They received a third place trophy for their book, "Pisa Li." They also received a second place trophy for a book titled, "Forest Animals."

Language Advocacy Essay: Entries were judged on persuasiveness of the argument, including support, writing style, and spirit of the essay. Talihina Choctaw language students took the two top awards in this category. A second place trophy went to Joanna Samuels. Landa Mc-Clure received the first place trophy and had the honor of reading her essay during the awards ceremony.

High school classes are taught through Distance Learning via OneNet with teachers based in Durant. High School Choctaw language teachers are Hannah Bryan, Virginia Espinoza, and Lillie Roberts. Eleanor Caldwell is the onsite Head Start teacher at Broken Bow and Wright City. Teresa Billy, Durant, is the visiting teacher for all the Head Start centers throughout the Choctaw Nation.

A special "Yakoke!" to the administration and the Choctaw Language Facilitators of the participating schools for their commitment to the Choctaw language. A special "Yakoke!" to Councilman Mike Amos for authorizing transportation for the Head Start children and parents.

The Choctaw Language Teachers are very proud of all students who are learning to speak the Choctaw language. The efforts of Choctaw language learners of all ages give us hope that the language will continue becoming stronger and will, one day, no longer be in danger of extinction.

Learning a new language is very hard, but if you stick with it, it does become easier. It

## Language preservation a priority of IT Council

The Five Civilized Tribes Inter-Tribal Council met in general session April 8 at the Choctaw Inn, Durant. On top of the agenda were two resolutions reflecting the commitment of the Inter-Tribal Council in preserving and revitalizing the native languages of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Muscogee-Creek, and Seminole Nations. A committee will be established with the express purpose of ensuring that the tribes' native languages are never lost.

"Not only here, but around the world, people are wanting to learn to speak the language of their an-

cestors," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "We appreciate everything the tribes are doing to preserve this important part of our culture."

The Choctaw Nation continues to expand classes available on the Internet and are offering classes for credit in 40 high schools and three colleges. Community classes are being held in numerous locations in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and California.

A third resolution was passed concerning the proposed final rule for NAHASDA funding distribution.

## **Annual Choctaw Storytelling Festival** to be held at Crowder Choctaw Center

#### Four-day event features Tim Tingle

Storyteller and author Tim Tingle, with his style of blending songs, cedar flute and drum with tribal lore of the Choctaw Nation, will be featured at the second annual Choctaw Telling Festival, June 22-25 at the Choctaw Center in Crowder, Oklahoma.

The four-day festival will begin at 9 a.m. Wednesday, June 22, with Tim telling stories to the Choctaw elders and the elders sharing traditional tales of their heritage.

On Thursday, June 23, break-

fast will be served from 8 to 10 a.m. followed by more time getting to know Tingle. Workshops will be held from 10 a.m.-noon, 2-4 p.m., and 6-8 p.m. for young children and adults who want to learn how to share their culture in storytelling.

Breakfast begins the day again on Friday, June 24, followed by workshops at 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. A traditional supper will be served from 5-6:30 p.m. and Choctaw Gospel singing will be enjoyed from 7 to 10 p.m.

Saturday will be a full day of storytelling by Tim Tingle and other Choctaw artists. The day's

events will also include music, flute-playing, drumming, traditional Choctaw dancing, intertribal dancing, Choctaw songs, blow gun demonstration, bow and arrow demonstration, arts and crafts.

There will be a \$15 fee for arts and crafts setup; please bring your own table. Concessions will be open all four days.

Sapokni HCE is co-hosting the festival.

For more information, please contact Dena Cantrell, Crowder Choctaw Center, 918-334-5344, P.O. Box 115, Crowder, OK 74430.

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

## Quest for healthy lifestyles has tremendous input from youth

Determination to slow the rising incidence of diabetes was the a very powerful statement beginning with, "I died today, but I know driving force to implement the *Diabetes Multi-Resource Task Force* in 2001. Concern because of the increased occurrence of other health problems such as obesity, cardiovascular disease and cancer prompted the transformation of the group's focus, and the name change to the Healthy Lifestyles Task Force.

Community and state partnerships have been developed with the Task Force to meet a goal of improving the health of the Choctaw Nation people and their communities. In addition to the many preventive services offered through the tribe, some tremendous education programs have been initiated in schools and communities.

An interactive drug awareness program with local schools called I Died . . . Who's Next? has been highly requested for schools next year. In this two-day program, for one full day, a student is chosen every 30 minutes to pretend to be killed in an alcohol related accident. The students who are "deceased" have their face painted white, dressed in a black T-shirt and are not allowed to speak to anyone until the school assembly the second day of the program. Local law enforcement officers come into the classroom and read a fake accident report, informing the class that they have lost a student. Mortuary staff lend a hand in the awareness push by reading an obituary of each student "killed".

The majority of youth react with humor at first, when the first student comes back to class with a white face and doesn't speak, but by the following day, after see a very lifelike accident scene complete with "victim" being zipped into a body bag by the funeral home, the students are taking the message very seriously. Each of the young people who were "killed" over the two-day program get a chance to speak before the entire school and say what they wish they had told everyone while they were "alive". There are very few dry eyes by the time it is finished. Teachers, students and parents all learn about possible consequences. I was told that one student gave I went to Heaven."

The Choctaw Nation, through the Task Force, is a member of the Oklahoma Turning Point Coalition to promote physical activity and weight loss, and we have participated in Walk this Weigh events in Talihina, Durant, Hugo, Tuskahoma and Spiro. The tribe is a pilot site for the federal Diabetes Detection Initiative, dispersing surveys through health fairs, communities and newspaper, with events at 85 sites in our tribal boundaries.

The Healthy Lifestyles Task Force has also implemented the Chief Pyle Fitness Challenge, media campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of healthy living, a diabetes cookbook, annual poster contests, placed fitness rooms in community centers and playground equipment at each health care facility to promote physical activity and spearheaded the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board.

The Youth Advisory Board has been an integral collaborator in planning and executing educational programs through the Task Force over the past two years. These are young people who feel it is important to live a healthier, more productive life. They have taken an active role in events and are a role model for other area youth.

The Youth Advisory Board is holding a Gospel Concert on Saturday, May 21, 2005, at the Choctaw Coliseum in Durant. The all-day concert features nationally known entertainers such as Sonicflood, Skillet, Todd Agnew, Taylor Mason and Runks.

Members of the Youth Advisory Board were important participants in Project Falammichechi, a program developed by an Oklahoma City youth, Claire Richard, and implemented by partnering with Choctaw Children and Family Services. This is a program that teaches second-graders hitting is not right and that resources are available to help if they experience or know of abuse. Through Project Falammichechi, mentors from higher grades are trained to visit the second grade class once a month throughout the school year



to provide the very important message that "hitting is NOT cool."

Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry and Secretary of State Susan Savage are honoring Claire Richard, mentors, program supporters and trainers on May 11 at the State Capitol Rotunda with a commendation ceremony for their work on Project Falammichechi.

We can all be very proud of the youth of the Choctaw Nation. There are a lot of good kids out there! Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862) said "Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it." I have faith the youth working with the tribe on these health initiatives will be very successful.



Booger Barter Operations Manager Johnny Garcia, Executive Director of Choctaw Casinos Janie Dillard, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Choctaw Nation Director of Transportation Ernie Taylor.

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey ...

## **Thousands attend first roping** event in Choctaw Arena

## **Chaplain's Corner**

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

It is a privilege to labor in the Gospel Ministry. Thank you for your prayers. I pray that these messages will be an encouragement to you.

George Whitfield, the great English evangelist, said, "I am daily waiting for the Son of God." But he did not sit down and do nothing. He burned out his life in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. Can we do less?

Our Lord Jesus Christ told Nicodemus in the Gospel of John 3:3, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

We are born again, saved from the penalty of sin by the grace of God. (Ephesians 2:8). Salvation is not by what we have done or not by what we can do or even by who we are. (Ephesians 2:9). It is only when we realize and agree with God that we are a sinner (Romans 3:23) and condemned to an eternal separation from Him in hell. And it is only when we trust Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we have eternal life. (John 3:16).

Now, how a person lives or what he does after he becomes a Christian makes a difference in his life is our subject today. God does judge His people for what he does in His Christian life.

There is certainly judgment for the believer. The





The first weekend in April featured the opening of the huge Choctaw Arena, which is an important component in the overall "tourism destination" plan for the Durant Casino area. This covered arena provides a versatile location for ropings, rodeos, stock shows, and innumerable types of events.

Booger Barter Productions opened the arena with the Choctaw Casino Resort Rope for the Dodge Truck on April 2 and 3, 2005, with \$121,000 in cash and prizes. The roping featured teams in groups from age 5 and under up through adult brackets. The High Point Roper and Truck Winner was Codee Reynolds, the Highest Placing Senior Citizen Roper was Mike Ille, the Highest Placing Woman Roper was Hannah White and the Highest Placing Youth Roper was Andrew Ward.

There were thousands of people in attendance to watch the contestants vie for the prizes over the two-day event, bringing in record crowds to the Travel Plazas and Casino in Durant. Activities are rapidly filling the schedule for the arena, and I look forward



to attending as many as possible.

Another important milestone the first of April is the opening of Giacomo's Italian restaurant on Choctaw Nation property adjacent to the arena. The restaurant is operated by the family who owns Giacomo's in McAlester and is truly a quality place to dine.

Construction of the hotel addition and new casino is proceeding, and the Wellness Center is close to completion. Many jobs are being created because of the new facilities and expansions.

A favorite quote by Andy Warhol (1928 - 1987) puts me in mind of the Choctaw Nation philosophy in making improvements in communities. Warhol said, "They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself." Change has equaled growth for the Choctaw Nation.



Inez Sitter is presented a special present by Chief Gregory E. Pyle during the Christmas festivities last year at Jones Academy in appreciation of her service to the tribe.

## Sitter continued from Page 1

growing up at Jones Academy was idyllic. "Everyone watched out for everyone else's children." Her parents were deeply involved with all the children coming through Jones Academy as well as helping with children's charities. "I can remember how Mother would get our family to help her with fund-raisers for the Christian Children's Fund. She worked with them for years and years."

Mrs. Sitter has five grandchildren and her second great-grandchild was born three weeks before her trip to Washington, D.C.

Sitter is also a recipient of a Lifetime Contribution Award, presented at the Office of Indian Education Programs' 2004 People of the Year Reception. She is listed in the World Who's Who of Women International and in Personalities of the South. believer, the Christian, will have to give an account for all his deeds, words, and even his thoughts, at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The Bible gives the answer in an almost overlooked and neglected teaching of the "Judgment Seat of Christ."

Paul in speaking of Believers, says in II Corinthians 5:10:

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

Now, we must see another all important fact. The Judgment Seat of Christ (JSC) is not to be confused with the Great White Throne (GWT) judgment of Revelation 20. Unless we see the difference between the JSC and the GWT judgment, we will never be able to understand either one. The JSC and the GWT judgment at the end of the world are separated by 1,000 years. The JSC occurs before the millennium - millennium means 1,000. The GWT judgment occurs at the close of the millennium, as clearly taught in Revelation 20, where we read that it will come after the "1,000 years were finished."

At the JSC, before the 1,000 year period, only believers will appear, not a single unsaved person will be there. Those appearing at the JSC will include all the saved dead who will be resurrected at Jesus' coming, together with all the saved believers who will be living when Jesus comes to raise the believing dead. These will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air, (I Thessalonians 4:13-18) and then will follow the JSC.

Only unbelievers, only the lost, will appear at the GWT judgment, 1,000 years later. There will be no saved ones there. There will only be those who are lost and who have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ.

The believers at the JSC before the 1,000 year reign of Christ will be judged on the basis of their works. It has to do with rewards and their position in the kingdom on the basis of this judgment. It has nothing to do with their salvation.

In the very same way, the wicked at the judgment of the GWT will also be judged according to their works. We read from the Book of Revelation 20:12:

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life: And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

This again has nothing to do with determining whether they are saved or lost. That was all settled once and for all when they died and the door of opportunity was shut forever. But this judgment on the basis of works is to determine their suffering

## SUMMER CAMP 2005

Join your friends for an exciting week of Christian camping at

#### Bertram Bobb Bible Camp

on Pine Creek Lake in Ringold, Oklahoma

CAMP DATES				
June 5-10	Kids' Week 1			
June 12-17	Kids' Week 2			
June 19-24	Kids' Week 3			
June 26-July 1	Teen Week			

Kids' Week 1, 2 & 3 are for ages 8-12 Teen Week is for students in grades 7 thru 12

> Camp Fee: \$25 per week - Times -Check in: Sundays 4-6 p.m. Check out: Fridays 10 a.m. For more information, please call the camp office: 580-981-2647

Bertram Bobb Bible Camp P.O. Box 822, Ringold, OK 74754 Christian Indian Ministries, Inc.

in hell (the degree of their punishment), based on the record of their works, their opportunities, and the light they have rejected.

Both the judgment of the saved at the JSC before the 1,000 year period, and the lost at the GWT judgment after the 1,000 years, will be the basis of their works and will determine the degree of rewards for the believers in the kingdom and the degree of suffering for the lost in hell, in a burning hell.

Neither of these judgments has anything to do with their eternal destiny as being saved or lost. That was settled for the believers by his acceptance of Jesus Christ, and for the unbeliever by his rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The judgment of the believer's sin was finished on the cross at Calvary. Jesus Christ died in our place. Salvation - salvation means to be rescued from the penalty of sin - is God's FREE gift to vou.

The vilest, lowest and filthiest sinner, as well as the most self-righteous one, may come to the savior and be eternally saved by faith.

Will you today trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior by faith?

Thank the people who are making life better for us.

Continue to pray for America and Native Americans and their leaders. Pray for our men and women in our Armed Forces.

## Excuseproof your exercise plan

We all do it – we blow off working out. We don't have time. We don't like doing it. We're intimidated. Or it just doesn't seem worth all the effort. Well, here are tricks for getting past those common excuses. Let's replace the E word (excuse) with Physical Activity. It can be simpler and feel easier than you ever imagined.

"It doesn't feel good." Do a cool-down. Finishing your workout with 5 minutes of easy activity can make it more enjoyable. People's last impression of any physical activity is the one that lingers. With a cool-down, you leave feeling the activity was easier, so you're

more likely to do it again. "I'll look silly."

Forget perfection.

Being physically active is not a Broadway performance. Learning to feel okay and laugh at little mistakes is good for you. Walk, dance, enjoy yourself - without worrying about how you look. Bonus: You burn more calories when you're not very good at something!

"I don't have time."

Count the small stuff.

Life is never all or nothing, especially being physically active. A 10-minute walk is always better than nothing. And instead of saying, "I don't have time." Say, "I can find the time even if it's for 10 minutes."

"I'm not getting results." Try any activity that works both your upper and lower body at the same time: step aerobics, swimming, pole walking. You'll boost your calorie burn without feeling like you're working any harder.

## Supplements ... Do kids need them?

#### **FOODS FIRST!**

Meals and snacks can provide all the vitamins and minerals most children need. That's the best way to get them! Foods are the best sources of nutrients for children. Foods have nutrients that vitamin and mineral supplements don't have.

#### **CHECK FIRST!**

Talk to your child's health care provider before you give your child a vitamin or

mineral supplement. That way you won't put your child at risk. A vitamin or mineral supplement may not be necessary, or safe either. Children with a food allergy and those who are vegetarians might need a vitamin or mineral supplement. If you live in an area that does not provide fluoride in the water, it will be necessary to get a supplement for your child.

#### IF YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH PROFESSION-AL RECOMMENDS A SUPPLEMENT:

· Get what's advised. One with enough vitamins and minerals, not too much.

• Give only the dose directed by your doctor, or health care provider. Giving your child more is not better. More can be dangerous!

· Know the amount of nutrients taken daily

from your supplement. • Teach your child that supplements are not candy – even if the names, shapes

and colors are fun. Store all supplements out of reach. Keep them in a container with a childproof cap.

– Remember an adult iron supplement can be poisonous for your child.

#### **READ SUPPLEMENT** FACTS!

Serving size: It's really the dose. If your child's doctor advises a supplement, be sure to ask about the type to buy and amount to give.

Other ingredients: Supplements may have other ingredients, such as a coloring or flavoring. A list is on the bottom of the label. Be cautious about other supplements and herbal products.

Use supplement facts to:

- Know the nutrition in one serving, or tablet.
- Pick the supplement advised for your child.

• Give your child the amount recommended by your doctor or health care provider.

Go to www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/ds-savvy.html for "Tips for the Savvy Supplement User."

Provided by: Nibble for Health 30

and the	WOI	MEN, IN	<b>W Nation WIC</b> FANT AND CHILDREN Choctaw Nation at 14 sites
SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Thurs. & 1st, 3rd, 4th Wed.
Bethel	580-241-5458	8:30-4:00	1st & 3rd Tuesday
Boswell	580-380-2517	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	1st & 2nd week - Tues., Wed., Fri.
		8:00-4:30	3rd & 4th week - every day
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30	1st, 3rd, 4th wk - Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.
		8:00-4:30	2nd wk - Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Smithville	580-244-3289	8:45-3:45	2nd Thursday
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Monday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Every Tuesday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Thursday

## To the youth of the Nation ...

## START NOW Get moving and have FUN!!!

Want to start moving more, but don't how? It doesn't have to be hard or boring to work for you. If you are not very active, start off slowly with an activity that gets you moving for ten minutes, five days a week, and build up to the recommended 30 minutes to one hour. Moving around, even for only a few minutes a day, is a healthy start to becoming more fit and preventing diabetes. I challenge you today, to take control of your lifestyle and be on your way to being a fit adult/child. It is never too late to start moving and have fun.

Adding more physical activity to your daily routine can be easy; here are some helpful tips to follow:

#### Dance it away

- Show your kids the dances you used to do when you were their age
- · Kids go outside and play hop-scotch with friends/family
- · Turn up the music and jam while doing household chores
- Kids go for a bike ride with friends/family
- Deliver a message in person to a co-worker instead of e-mailing
- Kids get outside and get moving; try not to play on the computer or Nintendo games as often
- Take the stairs to your office
- Make a few less phone calls. Catch up with friends during a regularly scheduled walk
- March in place while you watch TV
- Park as far away as possible from your favorite store at the mall
- Select an exercise video from the store or library

#### All information collected from the website: www.ndep.nih.gov. For more information regarding this topic go to www.ndep.nih.gov.

If you need further assistance, contact Raina Spears, Dietitian, DWC, Talihina, 1-800-349-7026

#### - Featured recipe -**APPLE PIE IN A GLASS**

1/2 cup fat free milk 1 cup reduced-fat frozen yogurt 1/2 cup sugar-free apple pie filling 1/4 tsp cinnamon

Place all ingredients in a blender or food processor. Cover and process until smooth. Pour into glasses. Serve immediately.

Makes approx. 2 servings. Serving size: 1 cup. Nutrition facts per serving (1 cup): Calories 145; total fat <1 g; cholesterol 5 mg; sodium 95 mg; carbohydrate 31 g; protein 5 g; dietary fiber <1 g.

Featured recipe provided by Choctaw Nation Cookbook, "Better Health." Recipe submitted by Betty Vandagriff, Sulphur, Oklahoma. Cookbooks are available through Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center, Diabetes Community Educators and Dietitians - 1-800-349-7026.

## **Healthy lifestyles**

- Laughing 100 times is the equivalent to 10 minutes on the rowing machine or 15 minutes on an exercise bike



"I've tried it before and didn't stick with it." Shift your thinking. You achieve what you focus on. So instead of focusing on what you didn't do, concentrate on the times you did and remember how well you felt and how much more energy you had. It's more empowering and proof that you can succeed.

For more information, call Wellness Education/ REACH 2010 at 1-800-349-7026, ext. 6044 or 6958.

### **CHILDBIRTH CLASSES**

Childbirth Classes, designed to help women experience the joy of the birthing experience and to overcome fears, are being offered at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center Women's Health Clinic. Register with a phone call to the Women's Health Clinic at 800-349-7026 or 918-567-7000, ext. 6371.

#### - May Schedule -

Saturday Classes May 7, 14, 21, 28, and June 4 Instructor: Joni Yarnell, CNM 9:00-10:00 a.m. Prenatal & Postpartum **Exercise Class** 

10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon **Class Presentation** 

#### – June Schedule –

**Tuesday Classes** 5:30-7:30 p.m. June 7, 14, 21, 28 Instructor: Deborah Wilson, RN

## Relax ...

## take a breath ... and enjoy life

#### **By Heather Rubio**

Graduation is just around the corner. Parents are either elated (hopefully not), or they're already beginning to miss their babies. Graduation is a time of remembering; for hoping; for dreaming; for growing and for maturing. For some it's just another day they have to go to school. Most have something to look forward to.

I know the general message at graduation is to go to college, get a job, go out on your own. However, I think it's important to relax. This doesn't mean quit your after-school job and "vegg out" on the couch the whole summer. It simply means to take some time out for yourself. Buy yourself an ice cream. Watch a movie you've been wanting to see. Take a walk to ease some tension. In general, just do something for yourself. These sugestions are not to be taken lightly. I know it sounds simple but, many young adults don't think about taking some time off. The tension builds and before they know it, they're depressed and considering suicide. I know everyone says, "Not me!" However, they must consider the facts:

• Suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students.

• Nearly 1,000 suicides are expected to occur on college campuses this year.

• 18- to 24-year-olds think about suicide more than any age group.

• In 1998, suicide killed more young adults than AIDS, cancer, heart disease, pneumonia, birth defects, stroke, influenza, and chronic lung disease combined.

• The suicide rate for 15-24 years old increased by 200% in the last 50 years.

• Approximately 12 young people aged 15-24 will commit suicide today.

• One person under the age of 25 commits suicide within every 2 hours and 2.5 minutes.

Together we can work to improve these conditions. Your college or university should provide counseling sessions, possibly classes to help ease the tension that college life brings. This is a very serious matter. Relax. Take a breath and enjoy life. College is important, but it is worthless compared to your life and ultimately your soul. Just remember you won't be able to finish college if you're dead.

Saturday, June 4, 2005

8:00 a.m. at Hugo Depot

2nd Annual

Homecoming Buffalo Walk

\$5 Registration Fee

Proceeds go toward Community Park Projects

For more information, contact

Joyce Wells at 317-9335 or Carlene Gloyne at 326-3325

Join the Homecoming Festivities and kick off Saturday's events by joining

the 2 mile Buffalo Walk! (Hugo Depot to Ansley Park and return.)

Over the past few decades, doctors and other researchers have found evidence that laughter and humor are often effective in assisting pain management and promoting healing - especially in children. Laughter seems to be a factor in increased ability to withstand pain. Laughter-causing situations can range from watching cartoon videos, old "I Love Lucy" or "Abbot and Costello" shows, sharing humorous experiences, making puns, or snappy one-liners.

Numerous humor and laughter studies from Duke University, Loma Linda University, UCLA, and even from other countries such as Great Britain have recognized positive outcomes.

- Laughing has been shown to help relax tense muscles.

- Laughter reduces the production of stress hormones.

- Laughter and a positive attitude strengthen the immune system.

- Laughter allows a person to "forget" about aches and pains and perceive pain as less intense.

- A good laugh is like an aerobic workout for the heart and lungs, increasing the body's ability to use oxygen.

- Laughter helps lower high blood pressure.

- There are no known negative side effects to laughter.

The good news is - laughter appears to be helpful in pain management and healing. Much research remains to be done, but current results point to numerous benefits and no downside. Laughter is not a substitute for medical treatment, but is often useful in conjunction with medical treatment.

**Healthy Living = Longer Life** 

## What is elder abuse?

If you know anyone who is experiencing elder abuse or is a victim of another crime, please contact **Choctaw Nation** Victim Assistance Program at 1-877-285-6893.

According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, the term "elder abuse" refers to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult.

Physical Abuse - Inflicting, or threatening to inflict, physical pain or injury on a vulnerable elder, or depriving them of a basic need.

Emotional Abuse - Inflicting mental pain, anguish, or distress on an elderly person through verbal or nonverbal acts.

Sexual Abuse – Non-consensual sexual contact of any kind. Exploitation - Illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, property, or assets of a vulnerable elder.

Neglect – Refusal or failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care or protection for a vulnerable elder.

Abandonment – The desertion of a vulnerable elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person

If you know anyone who is experiencing elder abuse or is a victim of another crime, please contact Choctaw Nation Victim Assistance Program at 1-877-285-6893.





Realistic crash scenes depict possible consequences of drinking and driving.

## **Project CHILD is new Choctaw Nation program**

Project CHILD (Children's Health Intervention and Lifestyle Development), a new program within Choctaw Nation, focuses on school-based preventative health teaching. Todd Baughman, LPN, and Martina Hawkins, LPN, have been visiting the smaller schools within the 10 1/2-county area talking with the students on subjects

ranging from hand-washing to drug and alcohol prevention.

Currently, they are also doing a program with the ninth through twelfth grades called, "I Died ... Who's Next?" This is a two-day program on teenage drinking and driving awareness. Every 30 minutes someone dies in a drinking-related accident. For the first day and half of the second day,

the grim reaper randomly enters a classroom and pulls a student every half hour. The student is placed in a black shirt and his/ her face painted white. For the entire time they are considered "dead" and can only talk to the other "dead."

On the afternoon of the second day, a crash scene is set up. Students are moulaged to look like injured/dead victims. Following the accident scene, the "dead" have the opportunity to speak to the student body, telling them what they never got a chance to say. The day is finished up with a spokesperson sharing with the students the consequences of drinking and driving.

For more information, please call 1-800-349-7026, ext. 7126.

## **Oklahoma watersheds included in historic expansion**

Three Oklahoma watersheds are among 202 across the nation invited to participate in an historic new program designed to reward farmers for long-term stewardship. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman announced the selected watersheds recently and said that signups for the 2005 Conservation Security Program (CSP). Sign-up began March 28 and will continue through May 27.

CSP, part of the 2002 Farm Bill, was introduced last summer in 18 watersheds nationwide. The Lower Salt Fork of the Arkansas River Watershed, in northern Oklahoma, was one of those 18 selected. In the first opportunity for farmers from each state to participate, about one-eighth of the nation's eligible farmers will be given the chance to apply each year over an eight-year period.

The three watersheds selected are:

Lower Cimarron-Skeleton Watershed lies solely within Oklahoma in the wheatbelt region of the state. It covers 2,076,047 acres, 3,780 farms, livestock grazing of introduced and some small grains. eight counties and ten conserva- forages and native range, poultion districts. Major agriculture try production concentrated in tion we have helped farmers and



enterprises include hard red winter wheat production, livestock grazing on native range, introduced forages and small grains, and localized areas of dairy and swine production.

Lower Neosho Watershed lies in northeastern Oklahoma with 95% of the watershed in Oklahoma and 5% in Arkansas. It covers 1,330,860 acres, 3,967 farms, seven counties and seven conservation districts. Major agriculture enterprises include

the Spavinaw Creek tributary to the watershed, and swine and dairy production localized within areas of the watershed in both Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Little River Watershed lies in central Oklahoma entirely within the state. It covers 626,141 acres, 1,998 farms, four counties and five conservation districts. Major agriculture enterprises include livestock grazing and hay production on native range, introduced forages,

ranchers fix conservation problems such as soil erosion or water conservation since the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s," said Ann Colyer, Tribal Resource Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) overseeing CSP. "This however, represents a whole new direction in conservation and agricultural policy and programs. These payments for demonstrable long-term stewardship will reward many of those who undertook conservation on their own initiative and who care for the resources we all share."

Participants will be enrolled in one of three tiers in the program, depending on the extent of the conservation treatment in place on their farm or ranch. Payments will be based in part on this existing conservation treatment as well as their willingness to undertake additional environmental enhancements.

Colyer said that while protecting soil and water quality are the "price of admission" farmers will also have options to improve wildlife habitat, improve air quality, participate in watershed-wide stewardship programs, and improve nutrient and pest management activities. NRCS will offer local workshops in the selected watersheds to more fully explain the program to interested potential participants. CSP will continue to be offered each year, on a rotational basis, in as many watersheds as funding allows. For more information on SCP or other NRCS programs, call or visit our local NRCS Field Service Center, in Bryan County, or see http:// www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

## **DUI outreach aimed** at teens attending prom

The Choctaw Nation CARES Project has begun a DUI outreach at area schools for those teens planning to attend his/her school prom. The curriculum consists of having the students wear the DUI goggles so they are able to "see" the effects of drugs and alochol. Activities include shooting a basketball, walking a straight line, or hitting a golf ball while wearing the goggles. These activities help the students understand how the use of alcohol affects their perception and coordination.

The students are also shown a video, "DUI: Dead in 5 Seconds," which is a real-life example of what drinking can do to a person, their friends, and family. The video includes graphic images and interviews with people who have felt the traumatic effects of alcohol. It's a moving, realistic portrayal that relates to the youth directly.



### Crop disaster signup now under way

Agriculture producers all across the United States who experienced

program. Eligible livestock includes cattle, sheep,

goats, buffalo, swine, reindeer, elk, and in some

To qualify, producers must have owned the live-

stock between July 15 and November 15 of 2003.

Producers who sold out during this time period

could also qualify, if they can prove they sold out

due to drought conditions. To sign up, produc-

ers need to call their local FSA office, or the FSA

contact office for the Choctaw Nation located in

Durant at 580-924-4131, ext. 2.

"As an agency and as a Na-

## Payments available for area livestock producers

cases, horses.

Ranchers and small agriculture producers located across most of the Choctaw Nation should be pleased to know payments will soon be available for grazing losses experienced in 2003 as a result of dry weather.

Signup for this Livestock Assistance Program is now under way in the Oklahoma counties of Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Hughes, Latimer, McIntosh, Okfuskee, Pittsburg, and Pushmataha. Any person or entity who owned or leased livestock and pasture is potentially eligible for the

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The faces of 1,322 American service men and women who lost their lives between the start of the war in Afghanistan and Veterans Day 2004 line the curved hallway of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. The portrait of one member of the Choctaw Nation, Pvt. 2 Jerod Dennis of Antlers, is among the Faces of the Fallen. More than 200 artists used photographs to create the individual portraits for the exhibit which will continue through November 11, 2005.



All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner.

crop losses in either 2003 or 2004 may be eligible for a Crop Disaster Payment through the Farm Service Agency. To qualify for a payment producers must be able to prove they had a crop loss of more than 35% in either of these years. If a producer had crop insurance, or NAP coverage and received a payment they also are eligible for this Crop Disaster Payment.

Any crop which was affected by adverse weather conditions is potentially eligible for assistance. Crops such as wheat, oats, corn, sorghum, pecans, hay, and vegetable crops are all eligible, as well as many other crops. For more information producers should contact their local USDA/FSA office, or you may contact the Bryan County FSA office in Durant which serves as the contact office for the Choctaw Nation at 580-924-4131, ext. 2.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origina, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. No all prohibited basis apply to all programs. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communications of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the 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 326-W Whitten Building, 14th Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD).

	VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION							
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
J U N				Atoka 1 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	2	3 Idabel 10 am-2 pm	4	
E	5	6 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	7 Stigler by appt only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	8	9	10 Poteau 11:30-1:30	11	
	12	13 Antlers by appt only	14 Durant 10 am- 12 noon	15 Wilburton 10:30 am -2 pm	16	17	18	
2 0	19	<b>20</b> Wright City by appt only	21 Crowder and McAlester by appt only	22	23	24 Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm	25	
0 0 5	26	27	28 Bethel by appt only	<b>29</b> Durant by appt only	30			

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

#### May 2005, BISHINIK, Page 6



#### Veteran honored on 83rd birthday

George Lagergren of Bay Center, Washington, a Chinook Indian, was presented a Choctaw Warrior Shirt on February 7 to honor him on his 83rd birthday. Lagergren is a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. Making the presentation are Choctaw tribal member Thomas E. Davis of Aberdeen, Washington, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II, and Howard "Buck" Logan, Chinook, of Aberdeen, also a USMC World War II veteran.

Pictured in the background is the raising of the U.S. flag 60 years ago at Mt. Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima. The flag was given to the Marines by the Skipper of the ship that Lagergren was assigned to and on site on February 23, 1945.

George is blessed with a loving wife, nine children and 20 grandchildren. He alleges that he has no enemies because life is just too short not to be good to all people.

#### **Roland Alexander celebrates June birthday**

Roland Alexander will celebrate his 43rd birthday on June 16. Roland worked as a customer service clerk at Churchill Commons Giant Eagle for 15 years. He is a Red Hawk American Indian Cultural Center member in Ohio. He reads Native American magazines, the BISHINIK, etc. and his favorite sports teams are the Miami Dolphins, Miami Heat and Cleveland Indians. Happy birthday.

#### Happy tenth birthday

Aire Sequoyah Thorne turned ten on April 14. Aire's parents, John Thorne and Marie Bateman; grandparents, Gene and LaHoma Crauthers, and sister, Melody, wish her a very happy birthday. Great-grandparents are the late Bill and Ella Murphy of the Forest Grove Community, Idabel, Oklahoma.

#### Happy birthday



Louise Walker would like to send birthday happy wishes to her sisterin-law, Bertha, and



Hope you both have a wonderful day!

### to her sister, Naomi.

**Brothers share birthday** Hooter and Dan,

#### Happy birthday, Imoshi

Allen Cusher was born on May 21, 1925, in Beachton, Oklahoma to Sina and Elise Cusher. After completing high school, he joined the Navy and fought in World War II in order to keep our great nation safe. He retired from Weyerhaueser Lumber Company after many years of employment. His family would like to take this opportunity to say, "Thank you for



being the wonderful caring individual that you are and it has been a pleasure and a joy to have you in our lives."

#### Cheyenne turns six

Cheyenne McKinzie Dee Fulks turned six on May 2. Wishing Chy-Chy a happy birthday are all of her family including her numerous aunts, uncles and cousins in Leflore County; Uncle Lesley, Aunt Donna and cousin Newt of Norman; Gramma and Papa John of Woodward; Aunt Michell and Uncle Ted and family from Texas; Grandma Harlon and PaPa Derral of Cashion; and her mom and dad of Frederick.

#### Mikala is turning five

Mikala Dorman will be celebrating her fifth birthday on May 25. She is the daughter of Randy and Lisa Dorman and has one little sister, Mackenzie. All are of Stratford, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Melvin Dorman and Susie Jane, both of Wynnewood, Oklahoma, and Mary Lemons of Stratford. All of Mikala's family wish her a happy birthday.

#### Look who's two

Happy birthday to Kathleen Elizabeth Battiest. Kathleen turned two years old on April 27. She is the daughter of Walker and Jamie Battiest and sister to Carson. This special greeting is from her Nanny, Aunt Amy and cousin Sara of Duncan, Oklahoma.

#### Happy birthday, baby brother

Bryton and Baylie Brandy would like to wish their baby brother, Brandon Kyle Brandy, a happy second birthday on March 7. Brandon's parents are Brian and Shelia Brandy. Grandparents are Herod Willis and Raymond and Lorenza Brandy, all of Idabel, Oklahoma.

#### Happy 24th birthday

Kevin Lee Stafford turned 24 years old on March 13. He is the son of Lloyd A. Stafford and Sandra Shupert. His grandparents include Mary Sue Baker Alexander and Barney Shupert, both deceased.

#### July birthday

Brandon Lee Felikatubbe turns five on

#### Jr. Princess turns 14

Happy 14th birthday to Sha-Vannah Short, Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for 2004 05.

#### Cephus turns 64

Happy birthday to Cephus John of Killeen, Texas. Cephus was born April 18, 1941. He's happy to be 64 years old this year. Cephus would like to say "Halito" to all his friends around Golden, Broken Bow, and Idabel and "God bless."

#### Happy birthday

Matthew Dean and Hunter Elliott would like to wish their dad, Gary Dale Jones, a happy 27th birthday on April 25.

#### Happy ninth birthday

Matt and Hunt would like to wish their cousin, Ember Michelle Reedy, a happy birthday on April 2. Ember is the daughter of Robert and Michelle Gipson of Wright City.



#### Happy birthday wishes for Harlan Wright

I would like to wish my Daddy, Harlan Wright, a happy 22nd birthday on April 7 - Sheradawn Gibson and family.

#### **Congratulations**, Matthew

Congratulations to Matthew Gibson for completing his last year of Head Start. You make us so proud - Mom, Dad and Alex.



#### Kiercy is turning four

Happy birthday to Kiercy Leighan Skieens of Durant, Oklahoma. Kiercy, who is the daughter of Mandi Gross and Taylor Skieens, will turn four on May 22. Kiercy is the granddaughter of Randy and Lillian Gross and Jim Bob and Becky Skieens, all of Wright City, Oklahoma. Kiercy, we love



you so much and we thank God for you every day. Love, Momma, Dadda, Poppy, Mamoo, Jim Bob, Becky and Tyrell.

#### Jones Academy senior turns 18

Congratulations to Nykki Santanna from your brother, Tiger, Rick Hampton, Terri Williford, and mom, all of Lawton, Oklahoma. A senior, Nykki will turn 18 on April 15 and is graduating from Jones Academy on May 16. She is the daughter of Lisa M. Harley-Hampton of Lawton. Grandparents



are the late Lucille and Donald Seeley of Broken Bow. Oklahoma Great-grandparents are the late France and Hampton Williams and Esther and Leo Harley, all of Idabel, Oklahoma.























turned 18, will graduate from Choctaw High School on May 23. Following in the

footsteps of many of his Choctaw elders, he has enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He will report to Great Lakes for basic training in November. Dan, who turned 17, also attends Choctaw High School. He is active in ROTC. Happy birthday from your family and friends.

#### Happy fourth birthday, Thunder

The family of Thunder Lee Reese McKinney would like to wish him a happy fourth birthday on April 25. Proud parents are Diana McKinney and Eric Harley of Idabel, Oklahoma. Proud grandparents are David and Marsha McKinney of Idabel and Una and Mike "Bear" Harley of Idabel.

#### Happy 18th birthday, Regina

Regina A. McKinney turned 18 on April 4. Proud parents are David and Marsha McKinney, Idabel. Proud grandparents are Olen and Maude Durant, Sobol, and the late Raymond McKinney and Helen Hester, Idabel. Great-grandmother is Ella Austin, Idabel.



#### Happy birthday

Nataya and Emmanuel Meashintubby would like to send belated wishes for a happy birthday to their father, Nathaniel Meashintubby, who turned 22 years old on March 11. They would also like to say happy birthday to their grandpa, Harold Meashintubby,

whose birthday was the 23rd, and their aunt, Tasha Meashintubby, whose birthday was February 1.

Also, Wadlene Wadley's great-grandkids would like to wish her a belated happy birthday on March 1. She turned 65 years old. Love, Nataya and Emmanuel Meashintubby, Makalaya and Michael Meneley, and Audasia Williams.

July 24. Proud parents are Robert and Dinah Felikatubbe of Monroe, North Carolina. Since Brandon loves trains, on his birthday he will be taken to Great Smoky Mountains to see Thomas the Tank Engine for a day of fun and rides through the winding trails. He starts kindergarten the next day.

#### Marcos turns 18

Happy birthday to Marcos Leopoldo Rasha who turned 18 years old on May 13 from your mom, Carol Rasha; Pedro; sister, Jennifer Rose; grandparents, Travis and Rose Ward, and all your uncles and cousins. May God bless you and keep you.

#### Happy birthday, Crystal

Phyllis Williams of McAlester, Oklahoma, would like to wish her daughter, Crystal Smith, a belated happy birthday. Crystal turned 28 years old on March 9. Also, happy birthday to her nephew, Travis Kenieutubbe on March 11. Travis is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Osborne Kenieutubbe of McAlester. They are

the grandchildren of the late Gladys Hampton and the late Osborne and Anna Kenieutubbe.

#### Happy birthday

Isaac Wacoche Jr. of Talihina, Oklahoma, turned 18 years old on April 20. Isaac is the son of Isaac Sr. and Brenda Wacoche. He has three brothers, Wayne, David, and Shane, and one sister, Monette Jean.

Isaac is a junior at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah,

Oklahoma. He played football and is currently on the track team at Sequoyah.

In his free time, he likes to listen to Slipknot, play basketball, play PlayStation 2, hang out with his peeps, and spend time with his sweetheart, Kandee Dickson. Happy 18th, Isaac Jr.!

Isaac Jr. would like to wish his cousin, Cheb Wacoche, a happy birthday, also on April 20.

#### **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.



#### Look who's turning 14

Tiger Sam Trejo Harley is turning 14 years old on May 21. He is a seventh-grader at Jones Academy, Hartshorne, Oklahoma. Happy birthday wishes are sent from your sister, Nykki, Rick Hampton, Terri Williford and mom, Lisa M. Harley-Hampton, all from Lawton, Oklahoma. Tiger is the grandson of the late Lucille and Donald Seeley of



Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are the late France and Hampton Williams and Esther and Leo Harley, all of Idabel, Oklahoma. Happy birthday, Tiger!

#### Congratulations

Congratulations to Dustin Rutledge and Kristi Goines of Bokoshe, Oklahoma. Over the Easter weekend, they represented Bokoshe High School in the 4 Love of the Game - March Madness All-Star Indian Tournament in Dewar, Oklahoma. Dustin was the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship. Kristi was chosen to play for the East All-Star Team.

#### Memories of 1976

This photo of Becky Cooper and then Chief David Gardner was taken in June 1976 at the Gardner Reunion at the Old Presbyterian Church in Bennington, Oklahoma. Becky, the daughter of Emmet and Joyce Cooper of Ft. Worth, Texas, is a distant cousin of Gardner. She is the granddaughter of the late Gladys Aribell Gardner and the great-granddaughter of Robert L. Gardner. Becky resides in Arlington, Texas.

#### Congratulations

Tanner and Dakota Erickson would like to say congratulations to their brother and stepsister, Coleton and Santana, for graduating preschool. They have been attending the Sand Springs Preschool program. In the fall, they will go to kindergarten and their little brother, Tanner, will go to pre-k.

Santana is the daughter of William Childress and Christa and Kevin Erickson.

Coleton is the son of Kevin and Christa Erickson and Kristi Poe. They have a lot of friends and family who are very proud of both of them.

















#### **Bessie Wall celebrates 95th birthday**

Bessie Wall turned 95 years old on March 11. She now resides at the Talihina Manor Nursing Home where she is visited often by her family and friends. On hand to celebrate her special day were her two sisters, Dee Tidwell of Honobia, Oklahoma, and Zora First of Tuskahoma, Oklahoma, along with a family friend, Nancy Southerland-Holmes, also of Tuskahoma, whose birthday is also the same day. As she opened her gifts and cards, Bessie was especially pleased with the beautiful, individual-size cake her brother-in-law, George First, had baked for her and sent as his gift. It was a special day and as always, Bessie treated her family with her good humor and vibrant enthusiasm for living a long, full life.

Bessie attended the Tuskahoma Academy for Girls until it was destroyed by fire, and she was transferred to Wheelock Academy for Indian Girls. Upon graduation from Wheelock in 1927, she was transferred to Chilocco to finish high school. Bessie graduated with honors. She went on to enjoy a long career and many lifelong hobbies and interests, including the cooking arts. Bessie's love for collecting and entering recipes for competition garnered her more than a few awards over the years. An avid reader, Bessie has always enjoyed writing, as well. Bessie's parents, Thomas H. Wall and Allie Potts Wall (now deceased) were both original Choctaw enrollees.

The following is a copy of an article printed several years ago in the Bishinik of Bessie's recollection of her years at Wheelock ...

"We heard the bell. We cherished and treasured its worth. But old buildings must go for need of a new one. We knew old Wheelock weathered the test with its students, teachers and within its walls education grew. Wheelock Academy we Choctaw girls knew and loved.

"Perhaps the new will bring pleasure when everything blends. For those who attended there, their laughter will echo through the rooms and perhaps dry their tears. Knowing every weakness somehow will come to be caressed in friendship, for the only beautiful life is that which exists to make others happy and bring them hope.

"To Wheelock students long gone, the story is old. But yet, we treasure its worth and maybe the new will come to be the salt of the Earth. Not what we gain, but what we give measures the worth of the lives we live.

"As a member of the graduating class of 1927, the glory that was Wheelock Academy will live always in my memories.' – Bess Wall



## Caddo FFA teams tops in land judging

The annual land-judging contest for FFA and 4H students in Bryan County was held March 29 in Durant. The contest was sponsored by the Bryan Conservation District funds provided through the Troy A. Stone Trust Fund. Fourteen FFA students representing three schools and eight 4H students from Bryan County participated in the contest. Technical assistance was provided by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel Paul May, Tim Jones and Randy Wingfield, OSU 4H Youth Director, Robert Bourne and Bryan Conservation District Equipment Manager, Robbie Chandler.

Team and individual plaques were presented to the first and second place team winners and high scoring individuals.

Teams from Caddo FFA claimed first and second place. Members of the first place team were Roby Joines, Jackie Dollarhide, Jeremy Gamboa and Brandon Williams. Dollarhide also placed as high scoring individual and Gamboa as second place high scoring individual. Members of the second place team were Michael Whorton, Matt Jones, Brody Haddock and Katlyn Dodds.

4H members were Madison Beasley, placing as high scoring individual and Maddie Shires, placing as second high scoring individual. Both winners are members of the Calera 4H. Contestants, FFA and 4H instructors, leaders, workers and directors were treated to ham-



First place land judging team - Jackie Dollarhide, Jeremy Gamboa, Roby Joines and Brandon Williams of Caddo FFA.

burgers with all the trimmings after the late afternoon contest. The Bryan Conservation District would like to express a special thanks to Tommy Hearon for cooking the hamburgers and Oden Grube for providing the land judging site.

#### **Spears, Sparks set date**

Clyde Wayne and Alice Ann Spears of Gowen are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Raina Ann, to Shawn Andrew Sparks of Stuart.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Earl and the late Frances Spears of Hartshorne and Joe and Mary Alice Benedict of



Adamson. She is a 1998 graduate of Hartshorne High School. Raina received her master's degree in Nutritional Science and Health Care Administration in May 2004 from Oklahoma State University. She is currently employed with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as the clinical and community dietitian.

Sparks' parents are Gary and Pam Sparks of Buffalo Valley. He is the grandson of Eva Shores and the late Walter Shores of Coalgate and Leola Sparks and the late Jack Sparks of Buffalo Valley. Shawn is a 2000 graduate of Buffalo Valley High School. He received his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education in May 2004 from Oklahoma State University. Shawn is currently employed as the Agriculture Instructor for Stuart Public Schools.

The wedding will be June 18.

#### **Engagement announced**

Jacqueline Irene Yellowfish of Mesquite, Texas, and Fidel "Fito" Hernandez of Dallas, Texas, are announcing their engagement and upcoming marriage. The wedding is set for May 28, 2005, at the Skyline Ranch in Dallas, Texas, with a reception immediately following. The bride is the daughter of James and Andrea Yellowfish of Mesquite. She is the granddaugh-

Susan Watson of Idabel, Oklahoma, and the late Lymon Sr. and Irene Yellowfish of Apache, Oklahoma. The groom is the son of Maria Hernandez and the late Fidel Hernandez of Dallas.

After a honeymoon in Hawaii, Jacqueline and Fidel plan to make their home in Dallas.



#### Happy birthday

Frank Watson celebrated his birthday at Giacomo's restaurant in Durant with his family, Jerry and Sharon Rethford and Charlie and Dee Davis. Frank is a former employee of the Choctaw Nation and one of the members of the Choctaw Election Commission who certified the 1983 Choctaw Constitution.

#### Wedding bells

Scott Wesley Dunlap and Simone Colgan exchanged wedding vows on April 30, 2005, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Scott is the son of Wes and Judy Dunlap of Scottsdale, the grandson of Oteka N. Lund and the great-grandson of the late Lorma Mattie Montgomery of Lawton, Oklahoma. Simone is the daughter

of Gary and Loretta Colgan of Scottsdale. The couple met at Saguaro High School and have since traveled to Japan to teach English to junior high and high school students. They are now establishing themselves in business and law school. We wish them much success in their careers and especially in their union together. Congratulations!

#### May birthdays

Happy birthday to Bill and



ter of Creson Watson and the late



#### **Marcal Ray Lewis**

Marcal Ray Lewis was born March 13, 2005, at Talihina, Oklahoma. He weighed 10 pounds 1 ounce. He is the son of Jennifer Rose Lewis. His grandparents are Carol Rasha and Pedro. Great-grandparents are Rose and Travis Ward. All are from Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

#### Nataya Marie Meashintubby

Nakina Williams and Nathaniel Meashintubby are announcing the birth of a daughter, Nataya Marie, born at 11:21 a.m. February 22, 2005. She weighed 7 pounds and was 19.5 inches long. Nataya joins brother Emmanuel Wayne Meashintubby, 17 months. Grandparents are Ramona Davis and Harold and Nellie Meashintubby. Great-grandparents are Bessie Sam, Virgil Sam, Wylene



Wadley, and the late Reba Meashintubby, her great-grandmother. Her aunts are Marquita, Natasha Williams and Tasha Meashintubby. Uncles are Damon Williams, Michael Meneley, Harold Meashintubby, Anthony Williams, and Bruce Wadley. Her favorite first cousins are Audasia, Makayla and Michael Jr.

#### **Five Choctaw** generations

Imogene Welch of Reichert, Oklahoma, has became great-greatа grandma again. Imogene is shown with her daughter, Claudette Hammer of Reichert; her granddaughter, Shelley Kelley of Jonesboro, Arkan-



sas, and her great-granddaughter, Alicia Herell of Reichert, along with Alicia's two children, Raelyn Herell and Luke. Imogene is the daughter of Robert "Bunk" Owens and Nancy Bell White who was a Choctaw original enrollee.

#### Happy birthday





Max are all one year older this month. This busy family has made room for a new baby so the party will be quiet. We love you, Grandma and Grandpa Vitali and Grandma and Grandpa Fowler.



56th wedding anniversary on March 26. Bill and Louise are the parents of District 2 Councilman Mike Amos.

#### Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Justin Williams, the grandson of Bill and Louise Amos. Justin celebrated his 20th birthday on April 23.

#### 50th wedding anniversary

The children of Alois and Lawan Wilson of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, would like to invite family and friends to their 50th wedding anniversary reception. The reception will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 28, at Oak Grove Baptist Church, four miles east and one mile south of Broken Bow.

Mr. Wilson retired from the Broken Bow School District where he taught for many years. Mrs. Wilson also retired from the Broken Bow School System where she worked as the cafeteria manager at Bennett Elementary School.

Their children are Ruth Chapman, Maxine Weems, Betty Wilson, Kathy Rhodes, Juanita Nye, and Raymond Wilson. They have 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

All family and friends are invited to attend this celebration.

#### Choctaw eagle soars in Taos

A late-blooming Choctaw artist from Oklahoma is giving the art world a whole new look at beauty in the far away mountains of northern New Mexico.

Mark Eagleheart, son of Roy and Virginia (McClure) Dodson of Guthrie, Oklahoma, was featured as Artist of the Month at the prestigious Blue Moon Art Gallery in Taos in February.

Though he has been experimenting with his paints since early childhood, Mark has only recently become a serious painter. Eagleheart's main interest is in landscapes, though his work runs the gamut to Indians mounted on horseback to portraits.

His one-man show, which began on the first of February, has received much attention from critics and collectors alike, and several of his works were sold on the first day. Some of his best work was recently featured in "Spirit of the Road," a magazine for tourists and travelers published by Western Horizon Resorts. The article also chronicled Mark's accomplishments as a forest firefighter, mechanic and Native American dancer.

Mark's work can be viewed at www.markeagleheart.com.



#### Happy anniversary

Randy and Lisa Dorman of Stratford, Oklahoma, celebrated their fifth anniversary on May 5 with their two daughters, Mikala and Mackenzie. Their families wish them a happy anniversary and many more happy years together.

#### Congratulations

Congratulations to Lee Adam Bond Jr. and Theodosia Noline Carpitcher who were united in marriage on December 15, 2004. The couple was married in Oklahoma City where they reside. Theodosia is the daughter of the late Valentine and Theodosia Noline of

Geary, Oklahoma. Lee is the son of Mary Lois Bond of Ardmore and the late Lee Adam Bond Sr. of Ardmore, Oklahoma.

#### Happy Mother's Day

Cody Elliott would like to wish his mom, Carma; his Aunt Vickie, and his Me-Ma Barbara a Happy Mother's Day. I love you guys.



#### Nurse participates in Breast Cancer 3-Day walk

Ramona White Tobacco of Soper will be participating in the Breast Cancer 3-Day, a 60-mile walk for women and men who want to make a personal difference in the fight against breast cancer. 3-Day participants commit to fund-raising, training and dedicating an entire weekend to the cause. A nurse for 30 years, Ramona said that a woman dies every minutes from breast cancer. "If one woman will get a mammogram as a result of what we do, it will be worth it," she said. Participants will walk 25 miles the first day, 25 the second day and ten on the final day and are provided with three meals a day, snacks, liquids, mobile showers, port-a-potties, tents to sleep in, safety guidelines and 24-hour medical support. It is projected that the 2003-04 3-Day series generated more than \$20 million (net) to fund critical breast cancer research and community outreach programs.

#### TAKE CHARGE! OHOYO HOMA

Take Charge! is a service that is provided to all Oklahoma women 50-64 years of age who meet the income guidelines for no-cost breast and cervical cancer screening. Free Mammogram & Cervical Cancer Screening! June 17

To schedule an appointment at the Ohoyo Homa Clinic, located at Atoka County Health Department, 1006 W. 13th St., Atoka, OK; 580-889-2116 This is a joint effort between the Choctaw Nation, Atoka County

Health Department and Oklahoma State Department of Health





## **American Indian Chamber of Commerce's South Central Chapter honors top seniors**

The South Central Chapter of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce held a banquet April 19 at the Choctaw Inn, Durant, to honor the area's top high school seniors. Assistant Chief Mike Bailey addressed the group of students, parents and sponsors, encouraging the young people to continue their education.

"An education is something that can never be taken away from you," Assistant Chief Bailev said. "The world is tough. Stay positive, have a strong work ethic, always be honest, and have a strong faith in God."

Forty-nine students were selected; 21 with a 3.0 gpa or higher. Receiving Certificates of Excellence for the 2004-05 school year were: Randi Howard and Megan Roberts, Ada; Shayna Gibson and Andrew Nemecek, Allen; Casey Jones and Heather Samis, Bennington; Kristi Goins and Dustin Rutledge, Bokoshe; Kassie Rae Finch and Cameron Cole Smith, Boswell; Heather Tehauno and Jeremiah Tom, Broken Bow; Destiny Nelson and Holli Taylor, Caddo; Matt Jones and Erica Brooke McMillan, Calera; Keith Lee Nichols and Jeremy Neal O'Flannagan, Coalgate; Laci Lang, Dickson; Maranda



Sue Folsom, President, South Central Chapter, and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey are pictured with a group of high school seniors honored for academic excellence by the American Indian **Chamber of Commerce.** 

Rea and Casie Sudderth, Eufaula; dra Janell Petty, McCurtain; Kel-Keith Cason and Jeremiah De-Wayne Maylen, Holdenville; Korso Ellwood and Rachel Zukowski, Kinta; Montana Mathews and Ashley McCurtain, Marietta; Tuchina Million and Latisha Wilson, McAlester; Ken-

ly Blevins, Olney; Jordan Ham and Hollie Henson, Plainview; Natasha Dunlap, Rattan; Nickolas Noahubi and Angelica Nina Smith, Roff; Whitni Lyn Beames and Patrick Williams, Silo; Lane Gibbs, Sulphur; Ashley LaToya

Jones and Micky Settlemire, Tushka; Amber Ward, Valliant; Katie Gail Johnson and Meagan Melton, Vanoss; Ryan Logan and Julia Whitetree, Wetumka, Aaron Wayne Sharp, Wilburton, and Ashley Jane Tolbert and Braden Chase Whatley, Wilson.

#### Potts inducted into the NHS

Tyler Potts, a junior at Warroad High School in Warroad, Minnesota, has been inducted into the National Honor Society. Tyler carries a full load of honors classes and carries a 4.0 grade point average. He has had a very busy winter. He plays goalie for the varsity hockey team and his team just won the State Hockey Tournament Champion-

ship. They finished with a perfect season and were the only unbeaten team in the state of Minnesota. Tyler works as a Level III referee in youth hockey during the winter and full-time at a bee farm during the summer and fall. Last summer he spent two weeks in Costa Rica with his Spanish class. Tyler also plays varsity baseball in high school. He plays trumpet for the Concert Band which recently performed on the steps of the capitol building in Washington, D.C.

#### **First-place essay**

Cheyenne Fields won first place for her essay, "What America Means to Me." She was awarded a \$100 savings bond and a certificate by state Sen. Debbie Leftwich at the Sertoma Club of Okla-

#### **Congratulations and happy birthday**

Carmella Dawn Ramirez graduated from Idabel High School on May 13. She is the daughter of Cassandra Willis and Ignacio Ramirez of Idabel. Carmella is the granddaughter of Herod and the late Hazel Willis of Idabel. Her family would like to let her know how very proud they are of her and to wish her a happy 18th birthday on May 24.



#### National honor recipient

Donna R. Crowder of Newcastle, Oklahoma, was recently selected for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars. The Newcastle High School student is the granddaughter of Ed and Johnnie Crowder of Shawnee, Oklahoma.



#### Porter receives tuition waiver scholarship

Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, is pleased to announce that Preston Porter is the recipient of an Associates Tuition Waiver Scholarship for the upcoming school year.

This tuition waiver scholarship is awarded to students who have demonstrated a commitment to education, having completed an Associates of Arts or an Associates of Science degree at an Oklahoma junior/community college.

#### Soper valedictorian receives SOSU alumni tuition waiver scholarship

Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, is pleased to announce that Anthony Moore of Soper High School is the recipient of an Alumni Tuition Waiver Scholarship for the upcoming school year. Anthony is also the valedictorian of the Soper 2005 graduat-

ing class. He is the son of Shirley and Eddie Moore, the grandson of Melvin and the late Fay Roebuck and Doris and the late L.B. Moore. Anthony was eligible for this scholarship because his mother, Shirley, is a graduate of SOSU.

#### **OU** graduate

Chad Baker graduated from the University of Oklahoma in the Spring 2004 ceremony with a Bachelor's Degree in the Arts and Sciences, majoring in criminology and political science. Chad is the son of Dennis and Nancy Baker of Choctaw, Oklahoma. Congratulations, Chad!



Rocky Rowe of Hillsboro, Kansas, is one of four Tabor College students selected this year by the Kansas Department of Education as Teachers of Promise. Tabor education department faculty members nominate students on potential, excellence in grades and performance, and involvement in teachers' education. The Teachers of Promise were honored



at the Kansas Teacher of the Year Banquet in November.

Rocky is a 1993 graduate of Keota High School and graduated May 23, 2004, from Tabor College with a degree in education. He completed his intern teaching at Marion Public Schools in Marion Kansas in December 2004. He is employed at Hillsboro Public School. Rocky is the son of John Rowe of Edmond, Oklahoma, and Deborah Sewell of Keota, Oklahoma. His great-grandpar ents are Dixon Lewis Sr. and JoAnna (Bascom) Lewis, an original enrollee.



## Choctaw members place at BPA **Spring Leadership Conference**

Members of the Business Professionals of America competed March 9 in the Oklahoma state leadership competition at OSU-Okmulgee. Awards were presented the following day at the Union Multipurpose Activities Center in Tulsa. Students from all over the state competed in different areas of business technology.

In the adult division, Bailey Zachary won first place in Extemporaneous Speech and eighth place in Prepared Speech; Rebecca Osburne: third place, Banking and Finance, and sixth place, Database Applications; Kathy Fish: fourth place, Banking and Finance; eighth place, Payroll Accounting, and ninth place, Parliamentary Procedure Concepts; and Wayne Wacoche: fourth place, Desktop Publishing.





Congratulations to all those who competed.

#### Snead is Pre-Teen Oklahoma finalist

Sara Snead, daughter of Michelle Sanders and Charles Snead Jr. of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, has been selected as a finalist in the Pre-Teen Oklahoma Scholarship and Recognition Program to be held May 20-22 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Pre-Teen Oklahoma is a by-invitation-only scholarship and recognition event involving young ladies seven to 12 years of age, based on their school academic records, awards, and honors won and/or their participation in outside activities. Pre-Teen Oklahoma will award more than \$5,000 in educational bonds, prizes and awards.

<b>ATTENTION:</b>	
There will be a	
Bow & Arrow	
Shooting	
Contest	
May 21 at	
Tahlequah,	
Oklahoma	
with	
Bare Bows Only	
No compound bows and	
no mechanical releases	
or sights.	
Youth: 10-15 years old	
Adults: 16 and older	
There will be	
two divisions	
• Recurve	

Traditional Longbow

Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place are medals in both shoots. A championship cup will be awarded to the team with the most accumulated scores.

For more information, contact Ricky Wade 580-924-8280, ext. 2236 or 580-775-0110

homa City on March 10. A sixth-grader at Capitol Hill Elementary in Oklahoma City, Cheyenne has been on the honor roll for the past two semesters. She is the daughter of Darlene Fields and granddaughter of Danuta Bohanon and Sammy Bohanon. She is the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Sam Bohanon. Congratulations!

#### All-Tournament

Three Haywood Lady Bombers were named to the All-Tournament team after winning the championship state - Whitney Barnes, Michelle Blevins, and Sarah Spencer. Blevins was also named MVP.





FOOD DISTRIBUTION							
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
J				1	Stigler <b>2</b> 9-2	Bethel <b>3</b> 9-10:30	4
N					Poteau A-L 9-2	Smithville 12-2	
E	5	Poteau <b>6</b> M-Z 9-2	Broken <b>7</b> Bow 12-2 Idabel 9-11	8 Warehouses open	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
2	19	20 Closed for Conference	21 Closed for Conference	22 Closed for Conference	23 Closed for Conference	24 Closed for Conference	25
0 0 5	26	27 Re-opened Warehouse	28	29 Last day for the month at Warehouses	30 Closed Inventory		

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

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

BETHEL: Choctaw Community Building.

BROKEN BOW: Choctaw Family Investment Center.

DURANT: Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr.

**IDABEL:** Choctaw Village Shopping Center.

**McALESTER:** Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 1212 S. Main.

POTEAU: Choctaw Family

Investment Center. **SMITHVILLE:** Big Lick Church.

STIGLER: Choctaw Community Building.

TALIHINA: Boys & Girls Club.

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



### **Tuesday, June 14** 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Crowder Choctaw Center

Choctaw children of the Crowder area and the Choctaw Nation CARES children, 9 years and older, are invited to learn the skills of archery and air rifle. Skeet shooting and the safety aspects will be offered to those 10 years and older.

#### Instructors:

Pittsburg County 4H agents Greg Owens and Mike Carter, certified state and national sports instructors, and Darrell Hightower, Crowder High School FFA teacher who has state certification in shooting-sports instructions.

Choctaw Nation CARES program amd Sapokni HCE are sponsoring the event.

> Call 918-334-5344 for registration and release forms. Deadline for sign-up is June 1.

#### May 2005, BISHINIK, Page 9



Cynthia James Wylie walked to represent her grandfather, Bennie James of Shady Point. She is pictured with Tribal Chaplain Bertram Bobb, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey.

## Skullyville

#### Submitted by Stella Long, Storyteller/Writer

The old Choctaw cemetery on the hill, surrounded by tall leafy green trees, appeared as guards of this hallowed ground. Many untold stories lie buried here. I could not imagine the grief and sorrow they had endured along the trail. Yet, many of these proud and gifted people survived the impossible hardship to settle in Okla Homma to form their own government and institutions. Even now the Choctaw Tribe continues to prosper.

Following the inspirational Choctaw hymns led by Bertram Bobb and the encouraging words by our Chief Pyle, the people proceeded the four-mile walk.

Families, friends, and new acquaintances walked together. Some people preferred to walk alone, probably absorbed in their thoughts of the occasion.

It was a perfect day for this event. The times I walked alone, I was engrossed in the magical changes of the season. Patches of white blossoms grace the fence row soon to be made into delicious blackberry cobbler for someone's table. The colorful wildflowers along the side of the path danced in rhythm with the children sprinting past me.

From a locust tree nearby I heard the sound, "Wheat! Wheat! Wheat! Three Cheers! Three Cheers!" From the sound, I instantly knew it was my old friend, Mr. Cardinal! Mr. Cardinal usually accompanies me on my daily walks at the lake. History of this special bird tells us that following the fall of the Roman Empire, the purple robes of the emperors gave way to the cardinal robes of the Church. The flaming color of these robes gave its name to our bird whose brilliance and dignified bearings well justifies its high title.

Soon we gathered at the community building getting acquainted. My question is always, "Do you know so and so from that town?" forgetting that I'm a hundred years older than some of these people!

I was impressed on how well the event was organized for the enjoyment of the many people attending. It is always good to come back to Choctaw Nation.

The spirit of our ancestors continues to flourish through the natural beauty of the land and we are indeed blessed!

Pearl Neal and I were in a joyous mood, talking and laughing all the way back to Oklahoma City. It had been a good day.





Grace and Wilson Walker of Antlers, Oklahoma, stroll around the peaceful cemetery.



Dayla Amos and mom and dad, Vicki and Council Speaker Mike Amos, walk the four miles from Skullyville to the Choctaw Center in Spiro. Young Andrew Amos is snug in his wheels.





Chief Pyle is pictured with Susan Cantwell, Kenda O'Neal, Imogene Welch and Wanda Dell. Imogene and Wanda are the daughters of original enrollee Belle White Owens Hayes. Susan is Imogene's granddaughter and Kanda is her grant granddaughter



Sean George and son Aidan of Memphis, Tennessee, are ready for the walk.



Mary Coley, Raven Coley, Brandon Battiest and Lane Isabell.

Tribal Councilperson Charlotte Jackson presents a Trail of Tears 2005 T-shirt to State Representative Ray Miller of Quinton, Oklahoma.



Darlene Noabbi and Kelly Adams visit with Chief Pyle before the opening ceremony at the cemetery.



Chief Pyle, Robert and Barbara Hardy and Assistant Chief Bailey.

gene's granddaughter and Kenda is her great-granddaughter.



Councilperson Delton Cox walks with the procession.



Lyle McKibben, Councilperson Charlotte Jackson and Colin McKibben.



James Vanvalkenberg and Leonard Smith of Talihina.



Carolyn Vaught of Arkoma and Gayle Tindall of Ft. Smith.



Several gather to begin the walk, including this family with members traveling to Skullyville from Tulsa and Enid. Pictured are Synita Bowers, Leslie Collins, Kim Cook, Michele Faulkner, Ray Bowers, Jeri Campbell, Katlin Chilcoat, Courtney Buchanan and Christi Buchanan.



Chief Pyle gathers with a group of students from Jones Academy around the historical marker designating Skullyville as the Choctaw National Cemetery. The students are Gavin Smith, Eric Gibson, Megan Ott, Heather Rush, Stacey Salkey, Justin Daniels, Casey Kauley, Michael Lucio, Chris Harjo, Danelle Quiver, Melissa Himes, Cheyenne Washee, Neosha Kauley, Antonette Gorden, Kenneth Simpson, Candice Gibson and Delanie Lime.



Nicole Begay receives a gift from Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Special Projects Executive Director Sue Folsom. Nicole helped with door prize drawings in Albuquerque.

## **ALBUQUERQUE**



Jimmie Brown and Lucy Walker, pictured here with Chief Pyle, are both former students of Wheelock.



Josephine Gonzales, in a wheelchair because of a broken femur, is with her son, Patrick Gonzales.



Gloria Hodgin, originally from Red Oak, Oklahoma, now lives in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.



Alex Brence and Chief Pyle.



Jim Dunfee wears his Choctaw shirt and hat to the meeting.



Executive Director of Choctaw Health Services Gary Batton talked with many people about health care issues. He is pictured here with Barbara Coffee Gonzales.



Pauline and Othel Sorrells are pictured with Chief Pyle in Albuquerque.



Phoebe Fisher Allrunner of Albuquerque is a former Wheelock student.



Donald Dean Taylor and son Darrell Dean Taylor both applied for Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma membership cards.



Jack and Betty Over joined other Choctaws for the Albuquerque meeting. Betty's mother is Lois Pugh of McAlester.







Lou Lozoya, Natalie Lozoya, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Emily Lozoya and Vicky Davidson.

Aleta Folsom Fendley, Chief Pyle, and Bob Gee enjoy the Choctaw get-together in Houston.

Mary Ryan and her uncle, Charles Gardner, have photo for membership card taken by Sandra Krebbs.



Above, Chief Pyle is pictured with Tacker and Douglas Stevens.

At right, Randy Fulton and son Joseph visit with Chief Pyle. Randy is a former employee of Choctaw Housing in Hugo, Oklahoma.



Ramone Chavez and Theresa Harrison talk about the Princess Contest at the California Choctaw Gathering.





Cesar Marlin and Marcos Jarquin were brought to the meeting by their mom, Louisa Jarquin.



Randall Hunt and his children, River and Randall, enjoy the Choctaw meeting in San Francisco.



Jack Risner, Jackie Risner Phillips, Toni Phillips Spolini, Joshua Spolini, Jamie Spolini, Chief Pyle and Jacob Spolini.



Shaine Lemmons receives a Choctaw windbreaker as a "Thank You" for drawing tickets for door prizes. Her Nana, Phylis Miller, is from Turlock, California.



Chief Pyle, Jack Risner, U.S. Navy Veteran Gene Holleman and Dale Reed.



Councilman Perry Thompson talks with Evelyn James who picked and cooked the wild onions for Hugo's Wild Onion Dinner.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, David Hunter and Joyce Wells visit together after eating wild onions and fish at Hugo.

## HUGO



Choctaw Law Enforcement officers Dan Breshears, R.D. Hendrix and Ray Jordan are pictured with Councilman Perry Thompson.





Above, Kathi Carnes, four-year-old Miko Maxwell, and Helen Hickman.

At left, District 8's Little Miss Rebeckah Boykin and Junior Miss Rachel Boykin sing "Amazing Grace" in Choctaw.



Kay Breshears with 17-month-old grandson, Ethan Breshears.



Angela Dancer and son Cobin James Quincy Dancer.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Joe Blaylock who broughtSerena Evereta picture of his uncle, Ernest Scroggins, who attendedfor door prizes.Bacone.Bacone.

## HOUSTON



Serena Everett assists Oneida Winship in drawing or door prizes.



This huge family posed with Chief Pyle in Houston: Larry and Jennifer Guinn and their twins, Ethan and Aydan; Bobby and Gordon Gamble, Marion Arrington, Zoe Armendariz and children, Anthony and Taylor Jones, Bret Gamble and sons, Matthew and Kyle.







Higher Education Director Larry Wade discusses scholarships with Ruth Cunningham.

Randy Hammons, Director of PWI and Vocational Rehabilitation, talks with Wanda Moore.

Aleta Folsom Fendley, Chief Pyle, and Bob Gee enjoy the Choctaw get-together in Houston.



Daphne Muirhead, WICO Director Margaret Teal, Craig Muirhead, Collin Muirhead with 14-month-son, Russell, Janice Reed, Michael Muirhead, and Chief Pyle.



Tay Bagley is a recipient of a Higher Education Scholarship for Baylor University.



Lisa Pebworth Purkayasthe is pictured with Chief Pyle and her son, Larkin, who is 1/2 Choctaw and 1/2 Hindu Indian.

## District 8 Princess Pageant

The District 8 Princess Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. May 26 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Hugo. For more informtion, please call Ella Young or Gail Thompson at 580-326-7521 or Councilman Perry Thompson at 580-326-9466. The young ladies must be within the ages of 8 to 23, single with no dependents, and at least 1/16 Choctaw.

## District 10 Princess Pageant

The District 10 Princess Pageant will be held at 6 p.m. May 28 at the Choctaw Nation Community Center in Atoka. For more information, please call Naomi Leflore at 580-927-3377. The young ladies must be within the ages of 8 to 23, single with no dependents, and at least 1/16 Choctaw.

## ► **REUNIONS •**

#### Bohanon-Impson

The Bohanon-Impson Reunion will be May 27-28 at McGee Park, located between Atoka and Antlers, Oklahoma. Friday will be a day of cleaning the family cemetery, a cookout and good conversation. Please bring cleaning implements, chairs, cameras, food to share or potluck and plan to have a great day of cleaning. On Saturday, we will have a short meeting, auction, and dinner. Don't forget to bring items for auction, made or bought, it doesn't matter. The children will have a lot of space to play and enjoy themselves. We hope to have a lot of new family members to come and enjoy our traditional gathering. Don't forget to bring old photos and memorabilia.

#### Lone Star Church

Family and friends are invited to a reunion of the Lone Star Church, Wardville, Oklahoma, on Sunday, May 29. For more information, please call Naomi Leflore at 580-927-3377.

#### Gibson-Pope

A reunion for the Gibson-Pope family and friends will be held on June 4 at the Choctaw Center, 1632 S. George Nigh Expwy. For more information, please contact Clara Blevins, 918-423-4766.

#### Parnell

The Parnell Reunion will be all day Saturday, June 18,

at the Choctaw Nation Community Center on Hwy. 259 in Smithville, Oklahoma. For more information, please call 580-244-3404. Hope to see you there.

#### Jefferson

Buster Jefferson announces that the family reunion will be June 18 at the usual location in Robbers Cave Park at Wilburton, Oklahoma. Come early and stay late. For more information, contact Buster at 2900 SW 48th, Oklahoma City, OK 73119.

#### Folsom

The Folsom Family Association will gather in Oklahoma City with family members from around the country to celebrate their 90th annual reunion. The reunion will be held July 7-10 at the Biltmore Hotel, N. Meridian and I-40. Hosts will be Sheron Folsom Rodgers and her family. For more information, call 405-721-5531 or e-mail sheronrodgers@cox. net or Greg Rodgers at grodgers3@cox.net.

#### Williams

The family of the late Dennis Williams Jr. would like to invite any and all descendants to a gathering June 25 at the home of Nathan and Donna Williams of Idabel. The family will gather for the third year at the Staggering "W" Ranch just east of town past the Road Runner. Come and enjoy games, eats and stories. For more information, call Nathan Williams or Bertha Bason, 214-748-6167. 33rd Annual

#### **Gospel Singing** May 28 at Buffalo Presbyterian Church near Watson, Oklahoma Everyone is invited – Specials & Singers Supper is 5:30-6:30 p.m. Singing 7:00-? Hamburger Sale 7:30-? MC: The Rev. Mel Gaines of Dallas, Texas Sound System by Wesley and Noah, Broken Bow

Come and celebrate with us in the Lord

#### 3rd Annual SOUTHERN NATIVES MEN'S FASTPITCH TOURNAMENT May 21-22 Ardmore Regional Park, Ardmore, Oklahoma Entry fee: \$175 1st place: Team trophy, windbreakers, and hats 2nd place: Team trophy and shirts 3rd place: Team trophy Contact: Craig Wallace = 580-277-9217

Contact: Craig Wallace - 580-277-9217 Shannon Mose - 580-226-3110



## **OBITUARIES**

### **Morris E. Dyer**

Morris E. Dyer, 73, of Anadarko, Oklahoma, passed away March 13, 2005, at Anadarko. He was born August 31, 1931, in Stigler, Oklahoma, to Dixon Dyer and Levisa Morris Dyer Gilstrap.

Morris, a full-blood Choctaw, graduated from Chilocco Indian School in 1950 and Northeastern State University in 1955 with a BA in education. He served with the 45th Division during the Korean



conflict. He completed a total of 13 years in the armed forces, receiving the rank of 1st Lieutenant. He married Lucille Hemstreet on October 9, 1969, at Gallup, New Mexico.

He taught high school in Comanche, Oklahoma, then served as an education specialist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Arizona and New Mexico. He was instrumental in developing programs for the Zuni Tribe of New Mexico which allowed the tribe to govern themselves more effectively. Having a special place in his heart for children, Morris initiated the first Zuni Little League baseball program, including the construction of the baseball field.

Morris became a health educator with the Indian Health Service with emphasis in inhalant abuse. He went on to become a nationally renowned speaker and leading expert on inhalant abuse among Native Americans. The curriculum he developed on health aspects of inhalant abuse continues to be used across the United States and Canada. He retired from the Anadarko Indian Health Service in 1990. Morris was a very talented, intelligent and interesting man. His interests and hobbies included woodworking, tennis, music, photography, home remodeling, and gardening. He was an avid OU Sooner and Dallas Cowboy fan. He loved his family and his country. His grandchildren loved their "Papa." Family and friends will miss his intelligent and humorous conversations.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Herman Dyer; daughter, Clorinda Herder, and son-in-law, Edward Torres.

Survivors include his wife; seven children, Patricia Torres, Dennis Dyer, Denise Dyer, Dixon Dyer and Debra Dyer, all of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Marcelin R. Pate of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Anderson Dyer of Anadarko; six grandchildren, Larissa Dyer, Elijah Pate, Carmen Page, Deija Pate, Jared Pate and Amanda Dyer; two greatgrandchildren; four brothers, David Dyer and Dixon Dyer, both of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Robert Gilstrap of Miami, Oklahoma, and John Gilstrap of Stigler, Oklahoma; two sisters, Stella Long of Oklahoma City and Eloise Wibben of Hugo, Oklahoma.

### Lena Helen Impson

Lena Helen Impson, 67, passed away November 17, 2004, at McCurtain Manor Nursing Home, Broken Bow, Oklahoma. She was born April 30, 1937, at Wright City, Oklahoma, the daughter of James and Nettie Jacob.

Mrs. Impson was of the Assembly of God faith. She enjoyed beading and sewing Choctaw dresses and shirts. She loved spending time with her children and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one daughter, Marcia Impson; two

sons, David Brian Impson and Stephen W. Impson; and one brother,

## **Aline Roberts**

Aline Roberts, 71, of Ringold, Oklahoma, passed away March 22, 2005, at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center, Talihina, Oklahoma. She was born November 6, 1933, in Summerfield, Oklahoma, the daughter of Edward Cecil Jernigan and Ruth Gibson Carlton.

She worked a short time for a cannery in California before moving to the Ringold area. She was preceded in death by her first husband of 25 years, Benny Woodman, in 1978. She married Chuck Roberts on July 8, 1984, in Reno, Nevada. They made their home in the Ringold Community until his recent death on February 1, 2005.

Aline didn't like to stay home. Her joy was yard sales, flea markets, fishing, and Shreveport.

She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Joy Derby, on August 15, 2003; an infant son, Benny Woodman; an infant grandson, and one granddaughter, Jenny.

Survivors include sons and daughters-in-law, Timothy and Tabatha Woodman of Ringold and Richard and Ufemia Woodman, Douglas Woodman, and Mark and Joyce "Coco" Woodman, all of California; stepson, Charles Roberts of Atoka, Oklahoma; stepdaughters, Linda Roberts of Ringold and Cheryl Morin of California; twin sister, Pauline Colm of Poteau, Oklahoma; brother, Dean Jernigan of California; stepbrothers, Larry Carlton of Arkansas and Michael Carlton of California; stepsisters, Phyllis Schwerdtfeger and Drenda Tokey, both of California; aunt, Leon Sitton of Summerfield; 16 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and nine step-grandchildren.

### **Ola Bell Smith**

Ola Bell Smith, 89, a longtime resident of the Oklahoma City area, passed away on February 20, 2005. She was born January 7, 1916, in Centrahoma, Oklahoma, the daughter of Minda L. and Silas Calvin Hart. She married Melvin Luvell Smith on November 7, 1936, and they raised two children, Pat and Gene. Ola faithfully dedicated her life to serving her family and others. She always put the needs of others before her own. In her spare time, Ola enjoyed gardening, working her flow-

er beds, and was especially talented in quilting and crocheting.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Melvin, on June 21, 1992; and three brothers, Sylvester "Beck" Hart, S.C. "Junior" Hart, and Avard Hart.

Survivors include her daughter, Pat Zanola of Moore, Oklahoma; son, Gene Smith and wife, Betty, of Noble, Oklahoma, two brothers, Kenneth O. Hart and R.C. Hart; three sisters, Letha "Biggin" Breed, Stella "Runt" McCurry, and Avo Brown; two grandchildren, Frank and Neely Smith; two great-grandchildren, Shane and Gene Smith; and marriages in the family that blessed Ola Bell with ten more grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and a host of others who adopted Ola Bell as their Granny.

#### **Josephine Marie Gibson Pierce**

Josephine Marie Gibson Pierce, 95, of Antlers, Oklahoma, passed away March 18, 2005, at Grace Living Center in Norman, Oklahoma. She was born December 6, 1909, in Darwin, Oklahoma, to Harrison and Emma Gibson.

She was a full-blood Choctaw and was proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She attended Wheelock Academy, Antlers Public Schools, and Carter Seminary in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Mrs. Pierce was very active in her beloved First United Methodist Church in Antlers. She was also a member of the Eastern Star, holding

### **Oleta Folsum Bell**

Oleta Folsum Bell, 88, of Hugo, Oklahoma, passed away March 23, 2005, at Pushmataha County Hospital. She was born April 6, 1916, in Choctaw County, Oklahoma, the daughter of Green Walker Jr. and Irrie Folsum Walker.

She had lived in the Hugo area most of her life. She married Arlie James Bell on February 19, 1938. A homemaker, Mrs. Bell loved flowers and gardening, going to church, and spending time with her family and friends.



She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a brother, Lovce Walker, and two sisters, Alma Goodly and Hotona Roebuck.

Survivors include one daughter, Wyonna Webb of Goodland, Oklahoma; three sons, James L. Bell, Arlie Bell Jr. and David L. Bell, all of Goodland, Oklahoma; nine grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild, and a host of family and friends.

### **Cleo Irene "Babe" Fennell**

Cleo Irene "Babe" Fennell, 93, of Abilene, Texas, passed away March 10, 2005, in Oklahoma. She was born May 26, 1911, in Soper, Oklahoma, to A.A. and Amelia Gardner Ferguson.

She married Hubert W. Fennell on August 1, 1931, in Hugo, Oklahoma. They resided in Soper, Oklahoma, until 1950 when they moved to Willard, Missouri. In 1953, she moved to Kansas City, Kansas, and resided there until 1976 before moving to Abilene.

Mrs. Fennell was very active in the Rose Park Senior Citizens group for 25 years. She was a member of the Methodist Church in Willard.

Survivors include one son, Phillip Fennell of Springfield, Missouri; three daughters, LaJoy Thackerson of Abilene, Maxine Graham of Valliant, Oklahoma, and Mary Price of Hugo; nine grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; and one brother, George Ferguson of Soper.

### **Paula Hodge**

Paula Hodge passed away February 26, 2005. She was born August 14, 1958.

Paula was a loving mother and a caring wife. She was selfless and giving to those in need, always trying to give to others a life she was unable to enjoy. Struggling with a sickness, she never gave in and will always be remembered as a fighter. A woman of many great skills, she will be missed.

### **Ricky Joe Tollett**

Ricky Joe Tollett, 42, of Talihina, Oklahoma, passed away March 27, 2005, in Talihina. He was born April 26, 1962, in Ada, Oklahoma, to Bob Tollett and Sue Lively Tollett.

Ricky survived cancer at a young age. He was one of the first success stories of Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City where he was treated for Hodgkin's disease. He was a dedicated and active member of the First Baptist Church of Talihina and worked as an auto mechanic.

Ricky's grandparents, one aunt, and two cousins preceded him in death.

Survivors include his parents of Holdenville; siblings, David and Bradley Tollett and Deanna Crawford-Townsend of Ada, Oklahoma; two nieces, Lauren Tollett and Chandler Crawford; two neph-



James Jacob Jr. Survivors include her husband, David Impson of Wright City; one son, Dennis Impson of Wright City; two daughters and sons-in-law, Marie and Isaac Battiest and Lisa and Marvin Roberts, all of Broken Bow; two brothers, Isaac Jacob of Valliant, Oklahoma, and Donald Jacob of Ada, Oklahoma; two sisters, Mary E. Watson of Wright City and Stella Lawrence of Grand Prairie, Texas; nine grandchildren, Amy and Jason Anna, Jason and Sara Battiest, Ramsey Williston, Jon Battiest, Keith Williston, Max Williston, Ozzy Impson, Christopher Impson, and Chrisha Impson; four great-grandchildren, Joshua, Blake, Terish, and Jacely Anna; several nieces and nephews; and a host of friends.

## **David Warren Impson**

David Warren Impson, 71, of Wright City, Oklahoma, passed away March 9, 2005, at McCurtain Manor Nursing Home, Broken Bow, Oklahoma. He was born February 11, 1934, at Lawton, Oklahoma, the son of Dickey and Myrtle Impson.

Mr. Impson was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was a former pastor of Chihowa I Chuka Assembly of God, Wright City. He loved fishing, hunting, gardening, and most of all, he loved the Lord and witnessing to people about God.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lena Helen Impson, on November 17, 2004; his parents; a daughter, Marcia Impson; two sons, David Brian Impson and Stephen W. Impson; two brothers, Dickey J. Impson Jr. and Preston W. Impson; and one sister, Mildred Walker.

Survivors include his son, Dennis Impson of Wright City; two daughters and sons-in-law, Marie and Isaac Battiest and Lisa and Marvin Roberts, all of Broken Bow, Oklahoma; brother, Finis E. Impson of Sulphur, Oklahoma; six sisters, Leona R. Wilson of Chickasha, Oklahoma; Emma L. Wolf of McAlester; Claudine Wheeler of Mesquite, Texas; Elizabeth A. Impson of McAlester, Sophia L. Impson of Dallas, Texas, and Margie Davis of McAlester, Oklahoma; nine grandchildren, Amy and Jason Anna, Jason and Sara Battiest, Ramsey Williston, Jon Battiest, Keith Williston, Max Williston, Ozzy Impson, Christopher Impson, and Chrisha Impson; four great-grandchildren, Joshua, Blake, Terish, and Jacely Anna; his only aunt, Mrs. Evelyn Cole of Durant, Oklahoma; several nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

#### Susan Merry Felsman Jeanes

Susan Merry Felsman Jeanes, 87, passed away March 12, 2005, at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. She was born June 17, 1917, in Garvin, Oklahoma, to William Rob Roy and Lizzie Webster Merry. She attended Murray State College, Tishomingo, and worked for the U.S. Interior Department in Washington, D.C., and in Chicago, Illinois.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, John Merry and Roy Merry, and a sister, Marle Merry.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Elaine Felsman of Pine Bluff; daughters, Gretchen Horton of Calera, Oklahoma, and Merry Elizabeth Warrington of Laurel, Maryland; sister, Oleta Boyce of Sante Fe, New Mexico; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

various offices, and was a member of the Garden Club and Hospital Auxiliary.

Mrs. Pierce held the elected office of Antlers City Clerk and served as an assistant to the County Clerk of Pushmataha County. She was the owner and operator of the Art Flower Shop in Antlers. She was an avid sports fan who supported the Antlers Bear Cats and the Oklahoma Sooners football team. Although Mrs. Pierce resided at Grace Living Center in Norman, her heart was always in Antlers.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Leroy Pierce; son, Robert Lee Pierce; grandson, Robert Thomas Packnett; granddaughter, Donna Lee; three sisters, Alice Carnes, Tina Underwood, and Ida Tupper; and three brothers, Pipkin, Edmond and Harry Gibson

Survivors include her son, Joe Packnett and wife, Marguerite, of Norman; three daughters, Frances Hauser and husband, George, of Edmond, Oklahoma, Maudean Harden of Wynnewood, Oklahoma, and Darlene Watashe of Kellyville, Oklahoma; daughter-in-law, Carol Pierce of Catoosa, Oklahoma; eleven grandchildren, Shannon Rowland, Dana Collings, Roberta, Curtis, and Terry Watashe, Rhonda Pierce, Randye Muller, Rita Ballinger, Leslie Ameen, David King, and Carolyn Wiggins; and 36 great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Pierce's family wishes to thank the director, administrative staff, and the employees of Grace Living Center in Norman for all their care and support.

### James Leonard Williams Jr.

James Leonard Williams Jr., 37, of Oklahoma City passed away October 25, 2004, at his home. He was born March 10, 1967, to James and Rozella Wallace Williams.

James loved to play fastpitch softball. He played for the OKC Redbirds, OKC Braves and HK, a team made up mostly of family. In high school he was recruited by the Philadelphia Phillies but chose to remain at home because it was so far from his parents. He graduated from Classen High School in 1985.

Jr. was an avid Oklahoma Sooner fan and received an autographed football from OU Sooner Coach Bob Stoops.

He was preceded in death by his father, James L. Williams; sister, Naomi Ruth Williams; grandparents, Tommie and Carrie Williams and Sam and Laura Wallace; two aunts and two uncles.

Survivors include his mother and a brother, Anthony Quinn Wallace, both of Oklahoma City; two special nieces, Shila Jo Pewewardy and Alisha Rose Pewewardy of Elgin, Oklahoma; nine uncles, seven aunts, and a host of cousins and friends.

The family would like to thank Red River Hospice for the wonderful care they gave him and the members of Angie Smith Memorial UMC for their visits and all their help getting us through this rough period in our lives.

### **Melvin Ivins**

Melvin Ivins, 78, of Lone Grove, Oklahoma, passed away December 9, 2004. He was born September 28, 1926, in Rubottom, Oklahoma, to George and Oma Hogue Ivins. He married Rheta M. Devall in Gainesville, Texas.

Mr. Ivins had lived in the Lone Grove area for the past 36 years. He worked as a farmer and rancher and was of the Holiness faith.

Survivors include his wife; two sisters, Hattie May Welch of Marietta, Oklahoma, and Helen Jane Betts of Glendale, Texas; and two brothers, Otis Ivins of Jimtown, Oklahoma, and G.W. Ivins of Hazel, Texas.

ews, Brandon Tollett and Coleman Crawford; and numerous aunts, uncles, other relatives and friends.

### Velma Williams Baker

Velma Williams Baker, 82, passed away February 27, 2004, in Fresno, California, surrounded by 23 loving members of her family. She was born November 13, 1921, in Albion, Oklahoma, the daughter of Dave and Abbie Williams. She was a member of New Harvest Church of Fresno.

Velma started first grade in Albion and graduated high school from there as well. She attended college at Durant, Oklaho-



ma, for two years. With World War II starting, they asked her to return to Albion to teach and coach girls' basketball.

She met and married a soldier boy, Earl Baker of Vanoss, Oklahoma. When their first son, Don, was six months old, they moved to Exeter, California. She taught in Lindcove, a small town outside of Exeter, where several of her nieces and nephews were in her class. They moved to Fresno, where she continued teaching and attending Fresno State University to complete her education. She accomplished all of this, as well as being a mother to two young sons.

After retiring from the Fresno School District, she kept busy. She was always there for any of her large family who needed her, especially any and all with health problems.

Velma was loved by all of us and we miss her very much. She was a direct descendant of Peter P. Pitchlynn, former Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and she was very proud of her Indian heritage.

She was preceded in death by her youngest son, David Baker, just a few short months before her; her parents, and ten brothers and sisters.

Survivors include her son, Don Baker and his wife, Cheryl; grandchildren, David Baker and his wife, Tera; Jennifer Johanson and her husband, Brodie Johanson, Julie Baker, and Abbie Baker; daughterin-law, Tess Baker; sister, Verta Williams Loveland and her husband, Sam; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

#### Thomas Walter Williams

Thomas Walter Williams, 75, passed away March 25, 2005, in Stigler, Oklahoma. Tom or "Waump" as he was affectionately called, was born February 9, 1930, in Oklahoma City to Eunice and Odas Williams.

He served in the U.S. Air Force as a paratrooper and had a lot of interesting stories to tell about that. He attended school in Stigler and Northeastern College in Tahlequah. He was an excellent athlete, playing football for both Stigler and Northeastern.

Tom worked at various jobs in Oklahoma, Arizona and California. He took great pride in his Choctaw heritage. His grandmother was an original enrollee. Everyone who knew Tom liked him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Tommy; a brother and a sister.

Survivors include a daughter, Anna Luz of McAlester, Oklahoma; three brothers, Pat of Paso Robles, California; twin brother, Ted of Indo, California, and Carl Ray of Lompoc, California; a family friend who seemed like a brother, McCurtain Scott of Stigler; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

