



BISHINIK

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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November 2003 Issue

Outstanding Elders



Rena Dosh Caffey, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Franch Johnico.

Choctaw Nation honors Rena Caffey, Franch Johnico

The Choctaw Nation honored two of its members as Outstanding Elders for the year 2003 during a banquet on October 2.

Ms. Rena Dosh Caffey is the Outstanding Female Elder. She is a Choctaw descendant reared on her mother's allotment in Bennington, Oklahoma. She attended Wheelock Academy during her early years and resided at Oklahoma Presbyterian College through her high school and college years. She received her teaching degree from Southeastern State College and attended Oklahoma State University for her graduate studies. Her teaching career began at Goodland Indian Orphanage for five years, temporarily changing careers by joining Indian Health Service at Claremore for one year, then returning to education for 28 years of teaching. She retired with the Tulsa Public School system.

Ms. Caffey has served in several volunteer activities with the Tulsa Indian Women's Club, Emergency Infant Services, Choctaw-Chickasaw Alliance, and agencies providing food and clothing to the needy and the homeless. She has a membership with Kappa Kappa Iota and served as Treasurer of the Bryan County Educators Association. She has also tutored second grade students.

An Elder in the First Presbyterian Church, Durant, Oklahoma, she currently teaches Ladies Sunday School.

She is also involved with the Choctaw and Bryan County Senior Nutrition Programs. Ms. Caffey is an active member of the Bryan County Retired Senior Volunteer Program, volunteering by transporting elderly in need and making visits to retirement center residents.

Her hobbies include reading and being involved with several crafts but she's best known for her Raggedy Ann dolls.

The Choctaw Nation's 2003 Outstanding Male Elder is Franch August Johnico, a 7/8 Choctaw Indian. He was born at home on January 8, 1929, weighing only three pounds and was not expected to live to the age of 74 years young. He is known to many in southern Leflore communities as "Red."

Mr. Johnico attended school and graduated from Whitesboro Public School. After graduation he joined the military and served in the Korean War. He was awarded a Purple Heart.

He has been married to a full-blood Choctaw lady for 47 years. They have reared eight children and are proud grandparents to 18 grandchildren and currently at press time seven great-grandchildren.

He worked in various areas before being employed by the City of Talihina for 28 years and retired after quadruple bypass heart surgery. He has received a certificate of recognition for his dedication from the City of Talihina.

His hobbies include being with family, playing pool, dominoes, listening to old western and Christian music, whistling (sign of happiness), fishing and visiting with friends at the Choctaw Seniors Nutrition program and Native American related functions and/or activities.

Mr. Johnico also shows his support for the community and is a big Talihina Tiger Fan.



Ribbon-cutting marks opening of Diabetes Wellness Center

The ribbon was cut on October 3 to officially mark the completion and opening of the Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center at Talihina. The new center provides one-stop care for the diabetic patient, with physicians, nurses, podiatrists, dietitians and physical fitness specialists housed under one roof. The huge new facility was funded by a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant from HUD as well as tribal funds.



Tobacco compact signed

Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry has signed a tobacco compact with Choctaw Chief Gregory E. Pyle. Other tribes that have signed compacts include Seminole Nation and Chickasaw Nation.

"While many states around the country are locked in contentious legal battles over tobacco issues, Oklahoma is leading the way in drafting cooperative, mutually beneficial agreements between the state and its tribal governments.

"I'm confident we will reach agreements with all of the tribal governments because it is in everyone's best interest to cooperate. I think both state and tribal leaders recognize that we can accomplish a lot more for Oklahoma by working together. That kind of positive relationship is a top priority of my administration," said Gov. Henry.

"I'm delighted to reach an agreement that will benefit the Choctaw Nation tribal members and all citizens of Oklahoma," said Chief Pyle.

Blood, bone marrow drives increase number of Native Americans on national registry

The Choctaw Nation is working with the Oklahoma Blood Institute, Red Cross, United Blood Services and the National Bone Marrow Registry to help build the number of Native Americans on the National Bone Marrow Registry. This effort is inspired by Myrtle Williston's son, Michael Cusher, a 27-year-old McCurtain County native and a 1994 graduate of Broken Bow High School who was diagnosed with leukemia in February 2003. Michael is

BONE MARROW AND BLOOD DRIVES		
Nov. 12	2-7 p.m.	McAlester Choctaw Community Ctr
Jan. 6	2-7 p.m.	Crowder Choctaw Community Ctr
Jan. 14	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Wilburton Choctaw Community Ctr
Jan. 20	2-7 p.m.	Poteau Choctaw Community Ctr

married and the father of three children, Michael, Jr., 6, and twin girls Sara and Tori, 5. His mother is a Choctaw Nation employee.

Michael is in need of a bone marrow transplant to survive. Although his doctors have been searching the National Marrow Donor Registry, a match has not

been found nor has one been found within his own family. Matches are most likely found within the same race group but unfortunately, only 1.2%, or 61,000 of the 5 million individuals on the National Bone Marrow Registry are of Native American descent.

In order to help try to find a match for Michael, and to ensure that future Native American patients have a better chance at bone marrow matches, the Choctaw Nation is hosting bone marrow and blood drives throughout Southeast Oklahoma. Listed are upcoming drive dates, times and locations near your area. Please join this life-saving effort by donating blood and/or joining the Donor Marrow Registry. Call today for an appointment. Walk-ins welcome.



Poteau



Durant

Independent Living Communities for elderly open in four new locations

The Choctaw Nation has constructed new Independent Living Communities for elderly Choctaws at four new sites – Poteau, Durant, Hartshorne and Hugo. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held at each giving

everyone in the area a chance to see the safe and affordable environment provided for the elders. Communities are also located in Idabel and Talihina.



Hartshorne



Hugo

Tribal Council approves compact

Following negotiations between tribal representatives and representatives of the State of Oklahoma, the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council has approved the Choctaw Nation/Oklahoma Tobacco Tax Compact of 2003.

Also during Regular Session October 11 in Tushka Homma, Councilmembers approved a Trademark Agreement between the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Mississippi Band of Choctaws, in which the two tribes have reached an agreement on the use and ownership of certain trademarks and trade names. It is acknowledged that each has equal right to use the term "Choctaw."

In other business:

- A Letter of Appointment of District 12 Council Person James Frazier to the Gaming Commission was okayed.
- Several program budgets, grant applications and lease agreements were approved.
- Supplemental funds were appropriated for the completion of the Child Development Center Project in Idabel.

Tribe is positive presence

Dear Chief Pyle,

It is with great respect and gratitude to the Choctaw Nation and its leaders that we say thank you for your many, many contributions to Pushmataha County.

We do not have to look very far to see the positive marks you have made. The list is long but includes things such as the Choctaw Nation Head Start program, Senior Citizen Center, housing developments, health clinics which include medical care, dental care and eye care, road improvements, water and sewer systems. The list goes on and on. And although the new Choctaw Nation Hospital and Diabetes Clinic sit just outside of Pushmataha County, they serve thousands of Push County residents.

I recognize your compassion and generosity in making life better for the residents of Southeastern Oklahoma.

Brad Carson
Member of Congress

Word of thanks

Dear Editor,

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the overwhelming gifts of food, plants, memorials, Color Guard, and especially the prayers that we received from Chief Gregory Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, and the employees of Choctaw Nation and Choctaw Bingo. A special thank you to Linda Lawson for all that she did.

Eric enjoyed his job and the people he worked with. The Choctaw Nation is a heritage that we all can be proud of. The love that you have extended to us will always be remembered. May God bless you all.

The family of Eric Allen "Red" Hunter

Searching for family members

Dear Editor,

I am searching for information about my grandfather's family – his name was James Joseph Ward, born March 9, 1888, near Murfreesboro, Arkansas. His father's name was Redden H. Ward and his mother's name was Nancy Ellen Carpenter Ward. We have discovered Nancy Ellen Carpenter Ward was Choctaw and that she was born in May 1860 in Alabama. We believe she is buried near Little Rock, Arkansas. Her parents were from Georgia and South Carolina. Redden H. Ward was born in Arkansas in 1838 and moved to Alabama where he married.

Research shows Redden H. and Nancy Ward were listed in the 1880 Pike County, Arkansas census. At that time he was 42 and she was 20. They had living with them two children: nine-year-old Eva and one-year-old Mary. Redden H. Ward had been married previously, to Nancy's sister, and after she died, he married Nancy. We believe there were children, including Eva and maybe Mary, from that first marriage, in addition to several children born by Nancy. We believe there was an older brother, George Magnus Ward, born in Oklahoma in 1882, who died in 1937 in Beaumont, Texas.

My grandfather told us that his father took him from his mother when he was only five years old to eastern Oklahoma, where he was raised by his father's sister. He never saw his mother again. He lived his adult life in Murray County, Oklahoma, and was a dairy farmer by trade. My grandfather died in November 1983 at the age of 95. He was unable to give us much information about his family, as he was so young when he was separated from them, he did not remember much. He also did not discuss where or how he grew up, but we believe he had family, possibly cousins, near Broken Bow.

We would appreciate any additional information about the Ward/Carpenter family history and any surviving family members.

Please contact Glenda Matthews, 407 East Ellis, Davis, OK 73030 or send e-mail to gmatthews731@msn.com. Thank you.

Brenda (Ward) Matthews

Locating Haskell graduates of 1955

Dear Editor,

I am trying to locate some Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas, graduates of 1955. Our 50th graduation anniversary is coming up in 2005 and I am trying to locate as many of the graduates that I can: Barton Wright, McAlester, Oklahoma; Alberta Brewer, Atoka, Oklahoma; Wanita Westbrook, Kansas City, Missouri.

Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Avis Glodek
2317 Nicklaus Dr.
Oceanside, CA 92056-3702

Trying to find family members

Dear Editor,

I am trying to find some of my mother's father's relatives. My grandfather's name was George Washington McMillan. His brothers were Willie and Theodore. My grandfather's dad was Louis McMillan. His wife was Sarah Hobbs. My mother's name was Buleh Pearlina McMillan Bartlett. She was born at Blocker, Oklahoma, in March 1918. If anyone has information on this, please write me. Thank you.

Juanita Dobbs
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Anadarko, OK 73005

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

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

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BISHINIK® 2003

Mike Bailey
Assistant Chief



Trooper finds photo

Dear Editor,

This photo was found by DPS Trooper R.C. Willey on Indian Creek Road several weeks ago. The owner may claim the photo by contacting Willey at the Department of Public Safety, 325-646-6867. On the back of the picture is a line stating it is the 1917 Choctaw Indian Tribal Council from Oklahoma.

Scholarship recipient

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you for the scholarship money for Fall 2003.

I am very proud of my Choctaw heritage.

Jennifer R. Hale
Marshall, Texas



Student attends band camp

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank you for the Youth Extra Curriculum Activity Fund. It helped me to go to Stephen F. Austin State University of Nacogdoches, Texas, Band Camp, June 15-20. I placed in Symphonic Band and made 4th chair with my trumpet out of 18 students.

John D. Hale
Avinger, Texas



Solving family mystery

Dear Editor,

My ancestors were either Choctaw or adopted by the tribe and I am on a quest to prove it. I need any help anyone may offer.

My grandmother was Lora Smith, she was born in 1889 in the Choctaw Nation and is listed as a female white student at the Conser Choctaw school in 1904. Her father was James H. Smith and is buried at Conser Cemetery. Her mother was Carrie Hoover. I believe she may have been a mixed blood. James H. Smith was also born in the Choctaw Nation. His father was also named James Smith and was captured by Yankees in 1863 in the Choctaw Nation and was forced to run to Fort Smith and transported to a prison in Illinois. He was released in 1866. I believe this man was married to a Choctaw. His father was Newton Smith, a blacksmith. Both are listed in the 1860 census as living in the Choctaw Nation in the Kiamitia District. I have found no permits with their name on them and they are not on the intruders list. Also living with Hames and Newton was a Frenchman named Lewis Coinsois(n). I believe this man to be Peter Conser's father as that was his real last name. The Smiths and the Conser remained close for many years, living nearby, and Lora was playmates with Peter's kids. She had many stories about Peter Conser and others. As Lora was about to die at the age of 97, she went into a Choctaw death chant, twice, according to Rev. Bobbie Cherry who witnessed it. When asked of her nationality, she always stated she was Black Dutch. As you can see, the evidence points to the Smiths as Choctaw or in the very least was adopted by the tribe.

Jackson Burns
8642 Greiner Dr.
Houston, TX 77080
713-461-0546

Family appreciates support

Dear Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey,

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for all the support and concern that you have given to our family in this time of great need.

Thank you Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey, Gary Batton and Choctaw Nation for all your effort in hosting the bone marrow and blood drives throughout Southeastern Oklahoma. Thank you for making more Native Americans aware of the National Bone Marrow Registry and encouraging others to become donors to help save lives. Thank you to the Choctaw Nation employees and the Native American people for volunteering to become bone marrow donors during the bone marrow drive.

We would also like to thank Shannon McDaniel, Charlene Grunstad, Councilman Amos, Vicky Amos and Choctaw Nation employees for all the support, prayers, cards and assistance that we have received. A special thank you to my director, Billy Stephens, for the emotional support, the understanding, the encouragement he gives and for being there for us on difficult days.

Thank you to our family for all your help. Thank you to our friends and neighbors for caring and letting us know that you care. We are grateful to you all.

May God bless you all and thank you so very much for caring about Michael.

Myrtle Williston and Michael Cusher
Idabel, Oklahoma

Senior citizens visit Vicksburg

Dear Editor,

The Senior Citizens of Watson, Smithville, Octavia, and Honobia would like to take this opportunity to thank Choctaw Nation for the recent trip to Vicksburg, Mississippi. Our trip was pleasant. It was fun to get on a nice bus and go somewhere. The driver was courteous and helpful in every way. Special thanks to Darlene Cusher who helped make the trip pleasant. Thanks also to Chief Greg Pyle and Councilman Kenny Bryant.

Searching for relatives

Dear Editor,

I would like to have any information on any relatives of Opal Dow Brotherton. Thank you.

Doy Grubbs
504 Proft Circle
Mena AR 71953
479-394-5250

Christian faith is the key

Dear Rev. Bertram Bobb,

I just had to write to let you know how much I appreciate your messages in the BISHINIK. I am not Choctaw, but my husband is of that descent through Stockman lineage.

I'm always amazed at the progress of the Nation and the positivity shown in the BISHINIK. So much of regular media is "what is wrong" and the dehumanization of life. When I page through the BISHINIK several things impress me:

1. Strong and caring leadership.
2. Value of the person – there are always pictures of new babies, college students, soldiers, anniversaries, reunions, birthdays, weddings and those who have passed on. Their stories are shared.
3. Gratefulness – so many write to express thanks to those who have helped them.
4. Vision for the future with action for today.
5. A strong undercurrent of Christian faith.

The last is what I believe to be the key. Because of it, God has shown favor to the Choctaw and will continue to do so as long as they look to Him. Your spiritual leadership has been a great blessing and a hand of protection to your people. I will continue to pray for you, for the Choctaw Nation, for the spiritual leadership of the future.

About your messages, they are a clear example of the truth spoken in love. I sense the tenderness of a shepherd even though the words are not sugarcoated. Thank you for being faithful to Jesus.

Marsha Nelson
Hibbing, Minnesota

Family receives septic system

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

We want to thank all concerned for their help in putting in water lines and septic system for our home in Haskell County. We especially want to thank David Bandy, Hoss Ward and Harlen Ludlow for their work. They performed their jobs very professionally. Rain didn't even stop them. We also want to thank Ron Bacon and his secretary, Lee, for all their help.

Roy and Ludene Roberts
Council Hill, Oklahoma

Student awarded Folsom Scholarship

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation and Judy Bursleson for recognizing me as the recipient of the annual Folsom Scholarship. It is indeed an honor and joy to have won it.

I would also like to thank the Choctaw Nation for any other educational funding for which I have been approved.

Dekoda Bost
Anadarko, Oklahoma



Spc Jeremy McBride

Spc Jeremy McBride of Poteau, Oklahoma, has been stationed in Baghdad, Iraq since March 3, 2003. He is in the Inf 2nd Brigade 1st Armored Division "Old Ironside."

Jeremy's parents are Sam R. McBride of Carlsbad, New Mexico. We all wish him a quick and safe return home.



Care package appreciated

Dear Chief Pyle,

My name is Bob Coleman. I'm serving with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Kuwait as part of Task Force RIO (Restore Iraqi Oil). Mapping products I created were and are used by team members in their operations in southern and northern Iraq, as they worked to secure Iraq's oilfields once hostilities commenced.

I'm the son of Bill and Ruth Coleman. My parents are active in the Senior Citizens program at Poteau, and have participated in the Choctaw language classes offered there.

Thank you and the tribe for the care package I received. It was most appreciated ... and not just by me but the other team members who work here as well.

My group arrived in country on March 18, the day before the war began, securing the wellheads and safe-moding the gas-oil separation plants (GOSPs) once they were taken and made secure.

The focus of our mission was to repair damaged facilities and extinguish any fires so that control of this important natural resource could be returned to the Iraqi people. That's been done, but the mission continues, adapting as the situation changes.

My part is just about over. This is my last day in Kuwait, as I'm rotating out ... and by the time you receive this letter, I will be home. While I've been here, my daughter's (Alexis Coleman) ship, USS Rushmore, has been operating in the Persian Gulf.

She received a package, too, and sends her thanks.

Troops enjoy care package

Dear Chief Pyle,

I just wanted to thank you for your donation of the "care package" that your organization provided for the troops. We provided your "care package" to troops that were waiting for a flight. The USO provides them with coffee and some cookies. Your donation of the care package was greatly appreciated. We have many troops ask for the things that you provided. We try to have as much of these items on hand but we do not always have what the troops need. If not for your kind donations the USO would not be able to provide these types of items to the troops.

Celeste Warner Heymann
Terminal Manager/OPS, USO Rhein Main Air Base

Little things mean a lot

Dear Choctaw Nation,

We want to thank you for the care package that we received. The box was placed at the troop billeting location, and within minutes everything was in the hands of the soldiers. Little things help, especially knowing that there are those at home who remember us and support us.

The 410th Military Police company is entering its eighth month in the Persian Gulf region, and we hope to have orders sending us home soon. Wish us luck!

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Arvel H. Perry



From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

Choctaw Nation All Indian Rodeo Association is well represented at National Finals

Sixteen contestants represented the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Region 8 Association at the Indian National Finals Rodeo on October 16 through 19 in San Jacinto, California. The Region 8 Association had gone by the wayside until the Choctaw Nation took over. This is the second year the Choctaw Nation has organized the Region 8 Rodeo, and the Chief, Council and I are extremely proud of everyone who has played a part in the tremendous success of the event. This includes the athletes, sponsors, volunteers, workers and spectators.

Shane Slack was the Champion at the National Finals in Calf Roping. I applaud him for his accomplishment in this very difficult endeavor. I am also proud of all others who competed from this Region. Competing for the National titles were the following Region 8 Rodeo Finals winners: Break Away Roping: Brenna Winship, Choctaw, and Kasi Prather, Cherokee.

Brenna was the Finals Average Winner and Kasi was the Year-End Winner.

Saddle Bronc: David Fox, Northern Cheyenne, and Phillip Whiteman, Jr., Northern Cheyenne. David was the Finals Average Winner and Phillip was the Year-End Winner.

Team Roping: Doyle and Mike Bacon, Choctaw, and Keith and Kevin Bacon, Choctaw. Keith and Kevin were the Finals Average Winners and Doyle and Mike were the Year-End Winners.

Calf Roping: Shane Ross, Cherokee, and Shane Slack, Choctaw. Ross was the Finals Average Winner and Slack was the Year-End Winner.

Bull Riding: Ricardo Tarin, Cherokee, and Brad Fish, Creek. Ricardo was the Finals Average Winner and Brad was the Year-End Winner.

Barrel Racing: Jennifer Weaver, Cherokee, and Sherri Kelley, Cherokee. Jennifer was the Finals Average Winner and Sherri was the Year-End Winner.

Steer Wrestling: Josh Anderson, Creek, and Howard Edmundson, Creek. Josh was the Finals Average Winner and Howard was the Year-End Winner.



A Message of Thanks

A very special Thank You goes out to everyone who helped following the recent loss of our mother, Marie Bailey of Grant, Oklahoma. All types of support were greatly appreciated – the food, flowers, visitation, calls, cards, and especially the prayers. We gained strength from these prayers and words can never express how truly thankful we are.

Mike Bailey
and Billy Bailey

I would like to thank all the athletes who compete in the sport and also thank everyone who supports these rodeo competitors. A lot of time and dedication must be given to succeed in the rodeo arena.



Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

I am thankful for the opportunity to labor among Native American people in a Gospel Ministry. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of salvation or conversion. Now, what is conversion?

The Bible teaches that God is a Holy God and He is a Righteous God. He hates sin. Sin separates. Sin brings the wrath of God upon the human soul. A man separated from God cannot and will not find God until he finds the way back to God.

Jesus Christ made the way back to God by His death on the cross. He purchased man's redemption by the shedding of His blood. His death and resurrection completed God's plan of salvation.

You cannot think your way back to God. You cannot worship your way back to God because man is a spiritual rebel. You cannot moralize your way back to God because you are spiritually dead in sin.

Now when we think on these things, these questions come to us: What shall we do? Where shall we begin? What is our road back to God?

There is only one way back to God and that is by the way of the cross. Jesus said each of us must accept His plan of salvation personally. He said in Matthew 18:3: "... Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus demanded a conversion. This is how to begin! This is your way back to God. There are many people who confuse conversion with the keeping of the law. The law of Moses is set forth in the Bible and the purpose of the law is made clear. Paul wrote in Romans 3:19: "Now, we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."

The law has given a revelation of man's unrighteousness, we read in the 20th verse of Romans 3: "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justifi-

fied in his sight ..."

It is impossible to be converted by the keeping of the law. We read the rest of verse 20 of Romans 3: "... for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

The law is like a mirror. We see ourselves as sinners, and the law condemns but does not convert. It points the finger but does not offer mercy. There is no life in the law. There is only death, for the law said: "Thou shalt die."

Probably there is more confusion about this subject "conversion." What is conversion? What is involved in it? Why must you be converted in order to go to heaven?

The word conversion means to turn around, to change one's mind. In the realm of Christianity it has been explained as to repent, to be regenerated.

Conversion can take many different forms. It may follow a great crisis in a person's life. Not all conversions come as a sudden, brilliant flash that we call a crisis conversion. There are conversions that come at a moment of a long period of gradual conviction of their need of the plan of salvation. This process results in the acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Savior and in the yielding of his or her life to Him.

Repentance and faith are involved in conversion. Repentance is the starting point in conversion, the turning from the former life. Faith is turning to Jesus Christ, the objective point of conversion, then, there is another point of conversion, the new birth – we are born again or we are regenerated.

True conversion will involve the total mind, the affection, and the total will. Jesus demands a change in the way you live and if your life does not conform to your experience, then you have every reason to doubt your experience. There will be a change in your emotions when you come to hate sin and love righteousness. Your devotion to Him will know no bounds. Your love for Him cannot be described.

In conversion as you stand at the foot of the cross, the Holy Spirit makes you realize that you are a sinner. He directs your faith to the Christ who died in your place. You must open your heart and let Him come in. At this moment the Holy Spirit performs the miracle of the new birth. You actually become a new creation. You become a partaker of God's own life. Jesus Christ, through the Spirit of God, takes up residence in your heart.

God has made the way of salvation so plain and Isaiah said in Isaiah 35:8 that "... the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

No man shall ever be barred from the kingdom of God because he did not have the capacity to understand. The rich and the poor, the sophisticated and the simple – all can be converted.

To sum it up, conversion simply means that you are changed by the Spirit of God. The converted person will love what he once hated, and hate what he once loved. There will even be a change of heart about God.

There will be reverential fear of God, a constant gratitude to God, a dependence upon God, and a new loyalty to Him. Righteousness and living the Christian life will be placed above all other concerns, for pleasing Christ will be the only thing of real importance.

Today, you can become a new person by trusting Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. You can trust Him, as your Savior right now, by faith. Will you do this?

Pray for Pastors and Evangelists as they preach and teach the Word of God. The Gospel is proclaimed but there remains a great spiritual hunger for spiritual food for spiritual growth.

Pray for President Bush and his staff. Pray for Chief Gregory Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council. Pray for Native America and their leaders. Pray for the U.S.A. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD ..." (Psalm 33:12a)

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Native Americans have unparalleled sense of patriotism

Choctaw Nation Tribal Members have the unique advantage of dual citizenship. By birth or by choice, if we are citizens of the United States and are Choctaw by blood, we enjoy connections with both nations. It is interesting to note that Choctaws, as well as other Native Americans, have volunteered in huge percentages per capita in all wars the United States has been involved in, including WWI, when Indians were not yet official citizens of the United States of America.

In fact, the Native Americans have volunteered in much greater percentages than any other race of people. There is a special pride in knowing that men and women who trace back to the same roots as us are willing to risk their lives to protect the freedoms that are taken for granted by so many people today.

Having seen the Choctaw Nation grow rapidly in both membership and services, I find it exciting that our citizens are receiving such a tremendous variety of assistance. These forms of assistance are literally a "hand-up" in most cases. Assistance includes education

scholarships, help with obtaining the American dream of home ownership, job training and employment, rehabilitation programs, health services, social services and many others. The Choctaw Nation was 80% dependent on the U.S. government twenty years ago for the few services that were offered. Now, that has reversed. Our great tribe is 80% funded by tribal businesses and is able to help thousands more members with many additional services and programs.

Former President Gerald Ford said, "Our values, our principles, and our determination to succeed as a free and democratic people will give us a torch to light the way. And we will survive and become the stronger – not only because of a patriotism that stands for love of country, but a patriotism that stands for love of people."

Our Tribal Council, Assistant Chief and I all share the patriotism that is a love of our Nations, both United States and Choctaw, and more importantly, we share the love of people. This is the catalyst that keeps us busy with improving and expanding our tribal businesses and programs. Improving the way



of life for Choctaw people is a task that will never be finished, but will continue to be heightened and amplified.

I was recently honored to tape an introduction for a film on patriotism starring Secretary of State Colin Powell. This film, which will be sent to the public schools in Southeast Oklahoma, contained a statement that I appreciated and would like to share. This quote on patriotism is, "There are many things each of us can do. We can stay informed; we can vote; we can be good citizens. Patriotic citizens are involved citizens, who do their civic duty to their country, and to one another."

This should be taken as a challenge for each and every one of us to live up to. As a final note this month, a special thanks and prayer goes out to each and every veteran and all of their families. Their devotion and service should never go unappreciated.



Jones Academy students tour complex

Several Jones Academy students met Chief Gregory Pyle while on a tour of the Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex in Durant. Making the trip were Kayla Taylor, Taletha Taylor, Charlie Clairmont, Heather Rush, Katherine Jumper, Shaylin White Buffalo, Alexandria Picone, Alisha Picone, Toni Mathis, Nowatha Mathis, Savannah Lucio, Judy Picone, Hudson Jumper, Bennie Simpson, Gavin Smith, Michael Toledo, Justin Daniel and Kris Harjo.



Vicki Adams, Leon Adams, Choctaw Nation Transportation Improvement Director Ernie Taylor, Joy Deal, Hughes County Commissioner Jerry Martin, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Frank Deal.

Choctaw Nation funds road improvements

Leon and Vicki Adams hosted a bar-b-que dinner October 16 on their ranch in Stuart, Oklahoma, in appreciation of recent road improvements in the area. The Choctaw Nation funded the materials for three miles of two-lane blacktop improvements in Stuart while Hughes County provided the labor and equipment. Approximately 100 people attended the celebration held on the 2,100-acre Leon Adams Ranch.

"Ninety percent of the people living along this stretch of road are Choctaw," Leon Adams said. "Without the Choctaw Nation this road wouldn't be here."

"All you have to do is travel through southeastern Oklahoma to see what the Choctaw Nation has done for Oklahoma," said Hughes County Commissioner Jerry Martin.

"The Choctaw Nation partners with communities such as Stuart to do about 60 miles of road a year," said Assistant Chief Mike Bailey. "We're

proud to be a part of Stuart, Oklahoma."

"Everyone who participated in the new road should be commended," said Ernie Taylor, Director of the Choctaw Nation's Transportation Improvement Program. "When a group of people get involved in a project like this it's something to be proud of. The road will serve the people for a long, long time."

A rodeo family, Leon and Vicki together have won PRCA Specialty Act of the Year four times and have been nominated 20 times. Leon began his Roman riding career at 12 years of age. Vicki has spent her entire life as a professional horseman, trickrider and Roman rider.

As part of the entertainment at the appreciation dinner, World Champion Bull Fighter Mike Matt of Montana drew gasps of appreciation as he rode two horses Roman style, jumping a 2003 Chrysler Sebring convertible.

Tim Tingle accomplishes the most admirable gifts as a story teller

Contributed by Cheryl Pickrell

I have taught English at St. Gregory College Preparatory School for 14 years. It is an oasis of excellence in education. I teach seventh-graders who read Elie Wiesel's "Night," John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," and Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird." The themes that connect all of the reading we do include prejudice and genocide.

My husband is an emergency medicine physician in Sells, Arizona, working with the Tohono O'odham tribe. They have taught us much about living a kind, thankful, compassionate life. I have wanted to teach a text that offers a glimpse of the Native American story. This summer, I

discovered Tim Tingle's new book, "Walking the Choctaw Road." I knew immediately that I had found a text that was beautifully written, had the potential to become a classic, and would be one my students would embrace.

Tim spent 15 years gathering these stories. He captured my students' imagination in the preface when he explained that Choctaw cultural values embraced "truthfulness and generosity." He emphasized that Choctaws "know that no matter how dark and troubled times may appear to be, a miracle is always waiting to happen." The stories Tim Tingle tells offer the reader doors that open possibilities of believing in a life after death, the hope that in

any situation one can find at least one decent person, the principle that helping others is the only way to live a decent life, that respect for our elders is critical, forgiveness frees us, and that miracles do happen. Many of my students found hope in these stories. They were informed about the genocide of Native Americans. They saw the irony and hubris in our celebrating Columbus Day as a day when America was discovered.

Tim Tingle accomplishes the most admirable gifts as a story teller - he gets the reader into the shoes of people of a different culture and evokes empathy. Readers are not the same after reading this text. They are left wanting to know more. Tim Tingle is an ambassador of truth, beauty

and goodness. I intend to promote this text with English teachers all over the country. Thank you to all of you who offered Tim Tingle your stories and your faith that he would handle these sacred stories with care. My students loved his poetic style, his crafting of beautiful language, and his ability to translate oral tradition into luminous prose. Tim Tingle is a poet. He is a generous human being. He did a telephone interview with my students. We are left wanting to know more.

Let me close with some words from my students that demonstrate a bridge has been built. The memory of the Long Walk, the honor code of the Choctaws, the experiences in schools that intended to beat and smother the Choctaw out of the Choctaw, the holiness of Choctaw rituals, and the hope that someday things will be put right, are stories that will enable us to understand American history, the gifts Native Americans can offer us, and the mystery of faith offering us all hope for this world and the next.

What Tim Tingle has crafted creates a bridge between Choctaws and anyone else who will take the time to hear their stories.

Student responses to Tim Tingle's "Walking the Choctaw Way"

St. Gregory College Preparatory School
Tuscon, Arizona,
7th Grade English

"When I first received this book, I must admit I had never heard of the Choctaw Indians, but after reading this book and all the Choctaw stories, I feel like I know so much about the Choctaw ways and customs. From these stories, I gather that the Choctaws have a lot of honor and hope even though

they have been through so much pain and misery. I know that the Choctaws are very spiritual and appreciate nature and believe in supernatural things.

"A story I enjoyed was 'The Trail of Tears.' It really expressed the ordeal that the Choctaws had to endure."

- John Anderson

"This book was absolutely wonderful and changed my life. I wanted to tell you that I loved the quote, 'People shouldn't be mean.' Before I read this book, my favorite quote was, 'Anything can happen,' but after reading this book, my favorite quote is, 'Miracles do happen.'"

- Jess Weinstein

"Through this book, I've learned much about the Choctaw cultural values just like you intended. I've learned that the Choctaws are people of miracles. They believe in miracles, and I also believe in miracles. Thanks to the glossary of Choctaw words in the back of the book, I can look up words and replace the English with the Choctaw. The ending with the poem, 'We are a People of Miracles,' is a touching part of the book. I love these lines: 'We are a good people, We are the Okla Hchukama, We are a great people, WE are the Choctaw Nation.' This is who we are and we're proud of it just is flashing in neon lights."

- Robert Porter

"I have read your book, 'Walking the Choctaw Road,' and I enjoyed it very much. My favorite story was 'Tony Byars' because of the well-written scenes and the magnificent line at the end: 'Wherever you are, you can always find one decent person.'"

- Cosmo Bonner

"Another thing I found interesting was how often Choctaws sing. They sing for joy

and for grief. It seems like a very spiritual way of healing or expressing emotions."

- Michelle Mousa

"Your stories made me laugh and cry ... I liked it when the little girl came up to you with the food and said, 'People shouldn't be mean.' She will stay with me for the rest of my life ... I understand that the elders are valued greatly in your culture."

- Christie Carlson

"All of these stories taught me at least a little about the Choctaw ways. I learned that Choctaws strongly believe in miracles. It is repeated throughout the book. I now know that, to the Choctaw Nation, death has a lot of spiritual meaning. I know that one of the number one rules is respect your elders. Choctaws are strong as a community and hard working. They willingly help out others."

- Rachel Rosenberg

"The 'Trail of Tears' was too real but heart warming when the narrator is welcomed into the spirit world by his mother and when his father has a really important lesson for him. 'You cannot keep your eyes on the bloody footprints you have left behind you. You must keep your eyes on where you are going'."

- Vouter Zwart

"I absolutely love your book, 'Walking the Choctaw Road.' It really made me think about the Choctaw culture ... In 'Caleb,' I thought the part where all the squirrels descend upon the father, Zeke, was hysterically funny. I usually don't laugh out loud at books, unless something strikes me as really funny, and I couldn't help but give out a snort of laughter at that part. I could just imagine swarms of squirrels falling out of trees, tumbling onto the father."

- Ellen Paul

MOBILE WELLNESS UNIT SCHEDULE		
Date	10 a.m.-12 noon	1-3 p.m.
December 2	Moyers - Store	Snow - Store
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
December 5	Broken Bow - Post Office	Broken Bow - Family Inv. Ctr.
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
December 10	Hugo - Choctaw Community Center	Hugo - Choctaw Community Center
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
December 11	Wright City - Choctaw Comm. Ctr.	Wright City - Choctaw Comm. Ctr.
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
December 16	Caddo - Senior Center	Tushka - Main Street
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
December 18	Hartshorne - Post Office	Hartshorne - Post Office
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
December 23	Krebs - Post Office	Krebs - Post Office
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention		
December 18	Hartshorne - Post Office	Hartshorne - Post Office

Smart Eats for a healthy weight

Eating for healthy weight is not about going on (and then off) the latest diet. The best way to achieve - and maintain - a healthy weight is to make small changes that you are willing to do forever. These six smart eating habits can help you reach your health goals!

1. Eat early: Kick-start the day with a power breakfast.

Start with a protein (like yogurt, peanut butter, lean deli meat, or an egg); add a whole grain (like high-fiber cereal, whole wheat toast, or bran muffin); and finish it off with a fabulous fruit treat (like a banana, canned peaches, frozen blueberries, or orange juice.)

2. Eat regularly: Snack smart to curb the munchies.

Getting over-hungry usually leads to overeating. With power snacks nearby, you won't be tempted by donuts or vending machines. For long-lasting energy, enjoy a handful of nuts or trail mix; a piece of string cheese or beef jerky or some creamy yogurt with fruit.

3. Eat bright: Fight disease with a rainbow of produce.

The phytonutrients in produce help fight cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure - and the effects of aging. They also add

WIC

WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN

Reading - Discover the rewards!

"A Book of Fruit" by Barbara Hirsch Lember
 "Dinosaurs Alive & Well - A Guide to Good Health" by Laurie Kransny Brown
 "Extra Cheese, Please" by Cris Peterson
 "Group Soup" by Barbara Brenner

great taste and bright colors to every meal. Eat green (broccoli), red (tomato), orange (cantaloupe), yellow (squash), and purple (grapes).

4. Eat whole: Enjoy the nutrient combos in whole foods.

Nature does an amazing job of putting nutrients together. Whole grains have a bundle of fiber, folic acid and B-vitamins for healthy hearts. Dairy foods have calcium, magnesium and proteins for strong bones. Lean beef has zinc, iron and protein for muscle power.

5. Eat strong: Put some protein in every meal and snack.

Protein, more than carbohy-

drate or fat, leads to feelings of fullness and satisfaction. Solid protein (rather than protein in liquid form, like milk) is more satisfying. Including some protein every time you eat can be a real help in long-term weight management.

6. Eat half: Re-size super portions to fit your needs.

Today's portions - fast food, restaurant, vending and cookbook - have all been supersized. Many servings are two to four times what your body needs or wants. One simple solution: Cut your food portions in two; eat half; and save the rest for another time.

Used with permission of Eat Right Montana

FOOD DISTRIBUTION						
DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 Stigler 9-2 Poteau (A-L) 9-2	5	6
7	8 Coalgate 9-10:30 Poteau (M-Z) 9-2 Atoka 12-2	9	10 Talihina 9-12	11	12 Broken Bow 9-2	13
14	15	16 Hugo 12-2 Wright City 9-10:30	17	18 Bethel 9-10:30 Smithville 12-2	19 CLOSED Staff Meeting	20 Chanukah
21	22 Idabel 9-12 <small>Winter</small>	23	24 HOLIDAY	25 HOLIDAY <small>Christmas Day</small>	26 INVENTORY <small>Boxing Day</small>	27
28	29 INVENTORY	30 INVENTORY	31 INVENTORY			

Food Distribution Sites


ANTLERS - Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 306 S.W. "O" St.
 ATOKA - National Guard Armory.
 BETHEL - Choctaw Nation Community Building.
 BROKEN BOW - Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center.
 COALGATE - Choctaw Community Center.
 DURANT - Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr.
 HUGO - Housing Authority.
 IDABEL - Choctaw Village

Shopping Center.
 McALESTER - Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 1212 S. Main.
 POTEAU - Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center.
 SMITHVILLE - Big Lick Church.
 STIGLER - Choctaw Community Building.
 TALIHINA - Boys & Girls Club.
 WRIGHT CITY - Choctaw Head Start Building.
 The Food Distribution Program workers will take a 30 minute lunch

break from 11:30 to 12 noon. Please bring boxes to pick up your commodities.

If you cannot pick up commodities when you are scheduled, please notify the Food Distribution Office at 580-924-7773 or 800-522-6170 so that you can be rescheduled to go to Antlers, Durant or McAlester.

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



Choctaw Nation WIC

Serving the Choctaw Nation at 14 sites

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

Study focuses on rheumatic disease

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes held its quarterly meeting October 10 in Muskogee. Five resolutions were addressed and approved including support of the efforts of Dr. Jim Jarvis in bringing to new light the importance of rheumatic disease in Native American children. Rheumatoid arthritis and other chronic inflammatory diseases have been shown to have a high prevalence in Native Americans. Dr. Jarvis' goal is to provide care in a setting in which the unique social, cultural and spiritual resources of Native people are respected and used in the healing process.

Also on the agenda was a resolution opposing the amendment to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) which increases the amount of funds for the Alaskan region, thus decreasing the amount of funds distributed to all other tribes. Chief Gregory E. Pyle stated that the amendment sets aside a large part of a fixed amount of money for the Alaskans, while tribes in the lower 48 states have to share the remainder.

The Council approved support of the Muskogee-Creek Nation's efforts in developing a Tribal Institute of Higher Learning and a

request to cease "data recovery" at Ft. Payne, Alabama, which is desecrating a sacred site containing hundreds of sets of ancestral human remains determined to be approximately 7,000 years old.

While giving his agency report, Wayne Sims, HUD, commended the tribes, and especially the Choctaw Nation, for encouraging tribal members to mark Native American on their 2000 Census form. "Marking Indian on the census gave a large boost to the figures, especially in the Choctaw Nation," Sims said. "The increase in figures gave a boost to 2004 funds."

ROSS Grant showing successful outcome

In October of 2001, the Housing Authority of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was awarded a three-year grant for our residents.

The Resident Opportunities Support Services (ROSS) Grant targets childcare, economic development, education, employment, transportation and stipends. Each area of assistance provides an opportunity for our tribal housing residents in the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation to further their education and/or obtain gainful employment. The goal in providing assistance to our residents is for them to become self-sufficient.

To date, several "successful outcomes" have been documented. Success is measured in many ways. Success for our residents should be measured in the gaining of self-esteem, dignity and self-sufficiency. As a result of increased education and employment skills, our tribe, our communities, our state and our nation as a whole are improved. Pride and self-esteem are the cornerstones gained through knowledge and hard work. With these attributes, our people continue the Choctaw tradition of being leaders and contributing back to our communities.

Several examples of how the ROSS Grant is succeeding include:

Participation of Choctaw Housing Authority residents in ROSS	
Business Development	4
Self-Sufficiency	
Employment & Job Readiness	34
Family Supportive	
Child Care	14
Education	75
Transportation	19
Other Residents Cost	
Stipends	37
Total number of residents served	181

- Case #1: A 41-year-old Choctaw woman has utilized tribal programs, including the ROSS Grant, and is currently enrolled in the RN program at Carl Albert State College.
- Case #2: A 43-year-old Choctaw man is a Choctaw

GED graduate, licensed CNA/Home Health and CMA. He is certified in CPR and a graduate of the Kiamichi Technology Center, Poteau campus. He is currently attending school to be a physical therapy assistant.

• Case #3: A 49-year-old Choctaw man in his second year at Kiamichi Technology Center in Tahihina is pursuing a degree in business and information technology.

• Case #4: A Choctaw woman couldn't find adequate, affordable care for her three children. She attended a business development workshop advertised in the BISHINIK. With the aid and support of the ROSS Grant, she utilized her degree in elementary education and is now the sole proprietor of a learning center. The center has two full-time employees and during the summer had two part-time employees. She has 25 children enrolled in her learning center and is a "2 Star Plus."

• Case #5: After being drug-free for five years, a 46-year-old man attended Carl Albert State College majoring in sociology/psychology.

The participation of our residents has been outstanding. With approximately one calendar year left for the current ROSS Grant, we expect more resident participation and many more successes.

NOTICE TO ALL NEW PARENTS!

Don't wait to apply for tribal membership

If you have a new baby or a child who doesn't have his/her Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) and Tribal Membership, please apply today.

Don't wait until it is needed for emergency services, education or many of the programs that are offered to members of the Choctaw Nation. Sometimes it takes longer than you like or need it to take to obtain CDIB and Tribal Membership cards.

If you have moved or changed your name, please notify the Membership office as soon as possible. If you have lost a loved one who is Choctaw, please send us a copy of the death certificate for our files.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Gun safety during the hunting season

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

- Treat your firearm as if it were loaded
- Keep your muzzle pointed in a safe unpopulated direction
- Check often to ensure your barrel and action are clear of obstruction
- Be absolutely positive of what lies behind your target before you pull the trigger
- Unload firearms when you are not hunting or target practicing
- Don't point your gun at something unless you are planning on shooting
- Keep in mind not to fire your gun at a flat surface or water
- To prevent accidents keep ammunition and firearms in two different areas out of reach of children
- Be sure to have knowledge of the firearm you are using as well as the ammunition
- Don't consume alcoholic beverages and don't use drugs before you begin handling firearms

CHOCTAW NATION GED CLASSES

Pittsburg County

Beginning December 1, 2003
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
EOSC Campus, 1802 E. College Ave.
McAlester, Oklahoma

Choctaw County

Beginning December 1, 2003
Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
Hugo, Oklahoma

McCurtain County

Beginning December 2, 2003
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Family Investment Center
Broken Bow, Oklahoma

Latimer County

Beginning December 2, 2003
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Choctaw Nation Community Center
Wilburton, Oklahoma

The class will meet 2 days each week for approximately 3 months. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. In addition, a \$10 (per day) transportation stipend is paid to those who attend classes on a regular basis and attempt the GED test. If you have turned in an application with our Adult Education Program for GED classes and wish to attend the upcoming class, please contact our office. If you have not applied and wish to attend these or future classes, please contact Linda Tyler or Felicia Carnes at the Durant office or call 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319. Also, you may register at the first day of class. A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) is required.



Buffalo Valley Head Start visits CNHCC

Buffalo Valley Head Start visited the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in September. The 16 students and staff toured the clinics, lab, radiology and ended with a trip to the playground for lunch. For small children, coming to the doctor or the hospital can sometimes be a scary and painful experience. Periodic visits give the CNHCC staff an opportunity to explain different procedures and medical equipment to the children in a non-threatening environment.

The Head Start students enjoyed sitting in the examining chairs in the dental and optometry clinics. They also had many questions to ask about the skeleton in radiology. Everyone wanted to get weighed in pediatrics and receive a coloring book. Spending time touring the hospital helps to prepare the children for their next "real" visit.

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Suzy Howard, CNHCC's Community Relations Coordinator, at 800-349-7026, ext. 6842.

Does aluminum play a role in causing Alzheimer's disease?

The thinking about aluminum and Alzheimer's has evolved over the 40 years that researchers have explored this question. The theory that aluminum might be involved emerged in the 1960s after scientists discovered that exposing rabbits' brains to aluminum caused nerve cell damage similar to Alzheimer pathology. Physicians also noted that people with kidney failure undergoing long-term dialysis sometimes develop a non-Alzheimer form of dementia caused by aluminum buildup. These observations raised the specter that aluminum might be one of the first known substances implicated in triggering Alzheimer's.

But studies since then have failed to document a clear role for aluminum. Every perspective from which researchers have explored the issue has yielded contradictory findings. For virtually every study suggesting an aluminum/Alzheimer link, there is another study failing to confirm those results.

The vast majority of mainstream scientists now believe that if aluminum plays any role at all in Alzheimer's, that role is small. If aluminum exposure had a major impact on risk, investigators would have gained a clearer picture of its involvement over the decades that they have been studying the issue, even though certain factors hamper research. One such factor is that the widespread occurrence of both aluminum and Alzheimer's complicates the effort to characterize their relationship since aluminum is Earth's third most common element, and Alzheimer's strikes frequently in older adults. Another issue is the lack of an animal model in which to study aluminum's effects. The best animal models of Alzheimer's disease are mice that are genetically



Honoring Our Elders Memory Clinic at The Choctaw Nation Health Care Center For Appointments call 918-329-6302

engineered to mimic human Alzheimer pathology, but mice lack sensitivity to aluminum. Rabbits have the necessary sensitivity but there is no transgenic Alzheimer rabbit model.

Even if aluminum was a significant risk factor, it is unlikely that people could significantly reduce their exposure through such measures as avoiding aluminum-containing cookware, foil, beverage cans, medications, or other products, because these types of exposure account for only a small part of the average person's intake. Most experts encourage people to focus their wellness efforts on measures with a proven impact on health or quality of life - avoiding smoking, exercising regularly, eating moderately, maintaining social

connections, and remaining intellectually active.

Some conflicting findings about aluminum:

- Aluminum is known to be toxic to the nervous system, but its effects differ from those of Alzheimer's disease.

- Some studies show elevated aluminum in the Alzheimer brain, but others do not.

- There is some evidence that in laboratory cultures of nerve cells, aluminum promotes aggregation of the protein fragment beta-amyloid into the amyloid plaques that are a hallmark Alzheimer abnormality. However, efforts to correlate aluminum levels with plaque density in people with Alzheimer's have been inconclusive.

- Research has failed to document a clear elevation of Alzheimer risk in individuals with occupational exposure to aluminum.

- Studies finding the most consistent link have correlated elevated levels of aluminum in drinking water with increased occurrence of Alzheimer's. Yet, there is no evidence that Alzheimer's disease is more prevalent in cultures that traditionally drink large amounts of tea, even though tea is one of the few plants whose leaves accumulate significant amounts of aluminum that may seep into the brewed beverage. (Advances: Vol. 22 No. 3, Fall 2002, Alzheimer's Association)

Thanksgiving Fellowship Singing
To honor the memory of Darrell "Spook" Wesley
November 15, 2003
First Freewill Baptist Church
"Family Life Center"
332 W. Carl Albert Pkwy
McAlester, Oklahoma
Emcee: J.W. Buck, Holdenville, Oklahoma
Supper at 5 p.m.
Everyone welcome!

10th Annual Pre-Christmas Fine Arts and Crafts Show
November 28 and 29, 2003
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Pittsburg County Choctaw Community Center
1632 S. George Nigh Expressway
McAlester, Oklahoma
Featuring Native American paintings, beadwork, Christmas Crafts, ceramics, rustic furniture, gourd art, candles and much more!
Concession will be open featuring Indian Tacos.
For more information and booth reservations, please call Shelley Westbrook at 918-423-0412 or 918-426-1743.
Door Prizes!
Proceeds from show for underprivileged children.

December Calendar
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY PROGRAM

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

People You Know



Green Country League Champions

The Talihina Cardinals Pee Wee Baseball team is the Green Country League Champion and the OK Kids District #8 Runner-Up. They finished the season with a record of 32 wins and 8 losses. Team members are Dalton Lanning, Quinton Ludlow, Dakota Watson, Tyler Ward, Zachary Curran, Taylor Hubbard, Michael Humphreys, Dalton McIntosh, Austin Irons, Christopher Capsey, and Garrett Williams. They were coached by Hoss Ward, Don Capsey, and Kenny King. The team would also like to thank their sponsors, The Choctaw Nation, Councilman Kenny Bryant, Larry Wade, Mike Strange, Kimball's Superfoods, Pam's Diner, Kiamichi Building Supply and a special thank you to Dr. and Mrs. Mathis for all their support.

Look who's five

Laren Boyd Reid turned five years old on September 22. He is the son of Larry and Roxy Reid of Wichita Falls, Texas. Grandparents are Jim Reid and the late Nadine Owens of Electra, Texas, and the late Roy Downs of Ft. Worth, Texas. Laren attends Pre-K at Ben Milam Elementary and loves Spongebob Squarepants and Pokemon. Happy birthday, Laren.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday wishes go to father and daughter. Dustin Hudson celebrated his birthday on September 8 and his daughter, Keely Hudson, turned one year old on August 16. Dustin is the son of Corinne Hudson. He is the grandson of the late Dixon and Sarah Hudson. Keely's mom is Natasha Wickson. She is the granddaughter of Fred and Dimple Wickson of Hugo, Oklahoma and Corinne Hudson of Smithville, Oklahoma. Happy birthday to both of you.



Walter Berg to celebrate birthday

Happy birthday to Walter L. Berg of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who will be 49 years old on November 16. Walter works as a parking attendant for Central Parking System.

Look who's ten

Happy birthday to Bobby Allen Nichols, Jr. He turned ten years old on August 15. Bobby is pictured here with his Grandma'ma.



Happy 81st, Dorothy

Dorothy Adams celebrated her 81st birthday on October 28. Dorothy is the sister of Lois Brown, Billie Starns and Dudley Pitts.

Happy birthday, Dorothy!



Happy ninth, Hayley

Hayley turned nine years old on October 27, 2003. Granna, Pa, Bo, Mimi, Grandpa and Grandma all wish her the best. Hayley's parents are Billy and Tammy Whitley. All of us plus Steve, Belinda and Danny send happy birthday wishes and all our love.



Happy birthday

Lanetta Hope Hendrix turns 34 on December 5. Her parents are Mack and Pat Boyd of Krebs, Oklahoma. Hope resides in Hartshorne, Oklahoma, with her husband, David, and daughter, Candace.



Dakota turns 14

Happy birthday to Dakota Wayne Stark. Dakota turned 14 on October 12. His parents are Texie DeLana of McAlester, Oklahoma, and Daniel Stark of Arpelar, Oklahoma. His grandparents are Mack and Pat Boyd of Krebs, Oklahoma, and Jerry and Linda Stark of Arpelar.



Happy birthday, Texie

Texie Lee DeLana of McAlester, Oklahoma, turned 30 years old on August 3. Texie's parents are Mack and Pat Boyd of Krebs, Oklahoma.



Blaine turns eleven

Blaine Christopher Ivie, son of Tommy and Brenda Ivie of Caney, Oklahoma, turned eleven years old on October 20. Happy birthday from Mom, Dad, Pa, Aunt Bobbie, Aunt Maisha and Uncle Bob, Uncle Bubba and Aunt Barbara, Uncle Mike and Aunt Betty and all your cousins.



Cheyhoma is seven

Cheyhoma Lyn Dugger celebrated her seventh birthday on October 9 with a party at McDonald's in McAlester, Oklahoma. Her brother, Samuel, helped her celebrate as did many of her family and friends.



She is involved in dancing which includes tap, ballet, and hip hop, and attends the first grade at Haileyville, Oklahoma.

Her parents are Jerry and Michele Dugger of Hartshorne, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Frank and Jane Dugger of Hartshorne and Sharon Martin of McAlester. Great-grandparents are Charleen Samuels and the late Wesley Samuels of McAlester, the late Harold and Myrtle Dugger, and Coleman and Reba Pugh.

Happy birthday, Kristina

Christopher and Cherokee Lann of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, would like to wish their favorite cousin, Kristina Sickles, a happy belated birthday. Kristina turned 15 years old on August 7. She is the daughter of Kathy Wyant of Eufaula, Oklahoma, and the granddaughter of Katherine and the late Travalo Garlin of Ft. Smith.



Happy birthday to Lann brothers

Christopher James Lee Lann turned ten years old on August 31. He is an honor roll student at Cavanaugh Elementary. A star athlete, he plays football, baseball, soccer and tennis. Christopher is a Weeblo in Pack 316 HVT.



Cherokee Blake Lee Lann turned eight years old on October 22. He is a straight-A honor roll student at Cavanaugh Elementary. He enjoys playing baseball, basketball, soccer and Taekwondo. He is a first-year piano student at Croaxton's Studio.

The boys are the sons of Chris and Katrina Lann of Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Grandparents are Katherine and the late Travalo Garlin of Ft. Smith, Jim and Barbara Lann of Cushing, Oklahoma, and Godfrey and the late Bobbi Duckworth. They are the great-grandsons of Joanna and the late John Pope of Hartshorne, Oklahoma, Stella Short of McAlester, Oklahoma, and Paul Duckworth of Arlington, Texas.

Lane celebrates eighth

Lane Williams of Idabel, Oklahoma, celebrated his eighth birthday on September 9. His parents are Barry and Linda Williams of Idabel. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Arvie Williams of Summerfield, Oklahoma, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Scott of Idabel.



Jeffrey turns eight

Jeffrey Davis of Texarkana, Texas, celebrated his eighth birthday on September 14. His parents are Keith and Sharon Davis, Texarkana. Grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel, Oklahoma. His great-grandmother is Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



Nakisha is 18

Nakisha Zilliox is of legal age - she turned 18 years old on September 20.

Happy birthday, Kish! I love you, from Grandmom and Mike.

Also belated birthday wishes to Lee Battiest of Shawnee on August 24; Isaac and Ruth Jacob of Valliant, Oklahoma, on September 6 and 19; Tim Peter of Dallas, Texas, on September 4, and Dr. Howard Phillips of Charlotte, North Carolina, on September 10. Wishing you many more years!



Look who's 38

Helen Mabelle Lovett turned 38 on October 14. Helen resides in Haywood, Oklahoma. Her parents are Mack and Pat Boyd of Krebs, Oklahoma.



They're 22 now!

These adorable babies turned 22 years old - Jessie on October 26, Conan on October 14 and Heather on August 25. Happy birthday, cuties. I love you - from Grandmom Mary Watson of Wright City and Mike.



Happy birthday

Jessica would like to wish her brother and sister both a happy birthday. Her brother, Jerald, turned 16 on October 14. Her sister, Annie, turned 12 on October 20. All three attend school in Moyers, Oklahoma. They are the children of Jamie Greenwood and Lupe Renteria. Their grandparents are M.T. Greenwood, the late Mildred Cole Greenwood, and the late Raul and Paula Renteria.



Earns master's degree

Cheryl Ann Broome-Garcia received her Master's Degree in Science in Social Work at the University of Texas in Arlington on Saturday, May 10, 2003. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work at Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas, on May 15, 1999. Cheryl is the daughter of LeRoy and Diana Broome of Granbury, Texas. Her grandparents are the Rev. Kenneth Baser and Shirley Hudgins-Baser of Talihina, Oklahoma, and the Rev. and Mrs. George Broome, Sr. of Weatherford, Texas. Great-grandparents are Benjamin Baser and Oma Johnson-Baser and Lawrence Hudgins and Florence Williams-Hudgins. Cheryl's great-aunt, Janie Williams-Flowers, resides at Ada. All of her family and friends would like to say, "Well done!"



Eagle Scout

Mark Stroupe, 15, of Murrells Inlet was awarded the highest honor achievable in scouting. A sophomore at St. James High School, Mark was presented with his Eagle Scout Award in a ceremony at the Walton Scout Hut on the grounds of Belin United Methodist Church in Murrells Inlet.



A member of Boy Scout Troop 396, Mark began his scouting career in 1994 as a Tiger Cub and has moved through the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life Scout. He attended many camping and hiking trips with his troop, including portions of the Appalachian Trail and Rocky Mountains at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow, an honorary scouting society. He has held the offices of Scribe and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and is currently serving as Patrol Leader. Mark's Eagle Scout Service Project consisted of directing and assisting groups of volunteers to obtain the Global Positional System coordinates of fire hydrants in the Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire district. These GPS coordinates will enable firemen to locate the nearest water source of the fire hydrants as they are called to a fire or an accident. Under his leadership, Scouts and volunteers painted 102 hydrants yellow for better visibility for the firefighters.

Mark has volunteered with the fire department since the age of 12. His grandfather was a Fire Chief and his great-grandfather was a Fire Captain. Mark is the son of Tom and Vicky Stroupe and the grandson of Bill and Frankie McNeill of Murrells Inlet.

Cousins celebrate birthdays

These two cute cousins are Malinda Chastene Steve, who turned eleven on November 4, and Kaylee Cheyenne Folsom, who will be one year old on December 5. Proud parents of Malinda are Shawna Folsom and Curtis Steve of Calera, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Vista and Jimmy Roberts of Boswell, Oklahoma. Kaylee Cheyenne's parents are Mary Robinson of Boswell, Oklahoma, and Brian Folsom of Bennington, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Rhonda Robinson of Durant, Oklahoma, and Timmy Robinson of Texas. Grandparents for both of these cuties are Happy and Sue Folsom of Bennington.



Happy birthday wishes

Nathan and Courtney Wesley would like to wish their son, Tyler Reece Wesley, a happy third birthday on October 5. He is the grandson of Dorothy Wesley of Broken Bow, Newton Wesley of Hollycreek and Ricky and Nancy Causey of Valliant.



Tyler Wesley would like to send belated happy birthday wishes to Daniel Causey who turned five on September 8; Trent Wesley who turned eight on September and his PaPa on September 24. Also, happy birthday to Jessica Amos on October 21. She turned 17 years old.



Couple celebrates

Marcline Phillips Lawson celebrated her birthday with her husband, James Elbert Lawson. James turned 76 on May 16 and Marcline turned 70 on May 30.



Happy 85th birthday

Bertie Shelton of Wright City, Oklahoma, will celebrate her 85th birthday on November 12. Bertie is the daughter of original enrollee Zinnia York of Hugo, Oklahoma. Happy birthday!



Coxsey, Okumoto wed

S/Sgt. Philip Matthew Chambers, grandson of Patrick Coxsey of Durant, Oklahoma, and son of Cynthia Chambers Delgado of Moorpark, California, was united in a Christian ceremony to Ayako Okumoto of Kobe, Japan, on September 13, 2003, at Hans Christian Anderson Park in Solvang, California. The bride's mother is Shigemi Okumoto of Osaka, Japan.



The groom attended school in Lompoc and Moorpark and was previously stationed at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, as a computer specialist on the AWACS and served during Enduring Freedom 2001 before being transferred to Misawa AFB in Japan. The newlyweds honeymooned at the Lawrence Welk Resort, near San Diego, California.

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. Please mail to BISHINIK, P.O. Drawer 1210, Durant, OK 74702; e-mail to bishinik@choctawnation.com, or fax to 580-924-4148.

Nursery News



Brad Spears, Jones Academy Administrator; Shawn Sparks, Agricultural Aide; Chad McGirt, Jones Academy student; Dirk Aaron, judge, and Brandon Spears, Choctaw Nation Agriculture.



Brad Spears, Jones Academy Administrator; Shawn Sparks, Agricultural Aide; Albert Cervantes, Jones Academy student, and Brandon Spears, Choctaw Nation Agriculture.



Brandon Spears, Choctaw Nation Agriculture, and Andrew Fuller, Jones Academy student.



Brandon Spears, Choctaw Nation Agriculture; Anthony Fuller, Jones Academy student, and Shawn Sparks, Agricultural Aide.

Jones Academy 4-H'ers receive top honors

Chad McGirt of Jones Academy captured the top title of Grand Champion Swine at the Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair held in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, September 19-21.

Chad placed first in Class V Crosses. He later was named Breed Champion Cross. Finally, he was selected as Grand Champion from the 617 pigs entered from Oklahoma and Arkansas. Chad's pig, "Skunky," was bred and raised at Jones Academy.

Albert Cervantes, a ninth-grader from Jones Academy, showed the Champion Chester. Albert's pig was the third pig selected for the premium sale.

Andrew Fuller, an eighth grade student from Jones Academy, made

the premium sale at the Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair with his cross gilt. His pig was chosen as the tenth best pig overall in the premium sale lineup.

Anthony Fuller, a sixth-grader from Jones Academy, qualified his cross gilt for the premium sale. His pig was chosen as the 20th best pig overall.

There were 617 pigs entered from Arkansas and Oklahoma and only 20 of these pigs were selected for premium sale.

Jones Academy 4-H'ers would like to give a special thank you to Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey, and Choctaw Nation Tribal Council members for their continued support.

Program provides advantages for businesses, disabled Native Americans

The Projects with Industry Services would like to encourage businesses and disabled Native Americans to take advantage of services provided by the Choctaw Nation Projects with Industry (PWI). Businesses looking for capable, dependable, and prescreened employees are already taking advantage of this program. If a business agrees to hire an individual through this program, the program will be able to reimburse for on-the-job training at 100% of the employee salary. The business is encouraged to retain the individual in permanent employment at the end of the training period. Business can also take advantage of federal tax credits of up to \$4,000 for employing Native Americans with a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB).

Disabled Native Americans who have a CDIB and are looking for employment are urged to take advantage of this program. Individuals found eligible can benefit from several services offered such as on-the-job training, job placement, job searches, counseling and guidance, and job readiness classes. This program can assist native indi-

viduals with disabilities which may include:

- Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- Diabetes
- Amputees
- Arthritis
- High Blood Pressure
- Learning Disabilities
- Back Problems
- Speech Problems
- Hearing Problems
- Mental Retardation
- Mental Illness
- Orthopedic Problems
- Seizure Disorders
- Spinal Cord Injuries
- Head Injuries

Or any other physical or mental condition that limits one's ability to work. Applicants must reside in the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation. Business and Native Americans interested in receiving more information, please contact Randy Hammons, PWI Director, or Angela Dancer, PWI Coordinator, at 580-326-7758 or toll free 1-877-285-6893. PWI Program is funded under a grant from the Department of Special Education and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Job Readiness Seminar scheduled

Choctaw Nation Projects with Industry Program will be offering a Job Readiness Seminar from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 30, at the Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex, 16th and Locust in Durant.

The Choctaw Nation Projects with Industry Program would like to take this opportunity to invite Native Americans to participate in the one-day training on preparing to go to the workforce field. The training includes but is not limited to identifying job/career choices, identifying strengths/weaknesses as an employee, how to locate job sites, how to complete job applications, job interview techniques, completion of a resume, and job keeping characteristics. Certificate of achievement will be given to all consumers who completed the class.

For more information, please contact Randy Hammons, Director of PWI, or Angela Dancer, Coordinator, Sr. Counselor PWI, at 580-326-7758 or toll free 1-877-285-6893.

Teen's quest results in finding father

Chicot Gobert has always known she was adopted. Curiosity about her Indian heritage led the 14-year-old teen on a quest to find her father. With the help of her adopted parents, Marilyn and Ernest Gobert of Coleman, Oklahoma, Chicot was able to trace information leading to her father, Curtis Bully of Durant, Oklahoma. Curtis and Chicot met for the first time in September at a street carnival in Durant. Curtis now pulls out a wallet full of photos to show everyone his newfound daughter. "We see each other about once a week," he said. "We've played basketball together and we've been to a cookout together." Chicot, too, is happy to be getting to know her father and finding out more about her Choctaw heritage.



Dekoda Bost receives Folsom Scholarship

Dekoda Bost is this year's winner of the annual Folsom Scholarship, given by Datatrac Information Services, Inc. A 2003 graduate of Anadarko High School, Dekoda attends the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. The Folsom Scholarship recognized Dekoda for his demonstrated leadership skills, perseverance to obtain his career goals, and involvement in the community. A member of the Choctaw Nation, he was one of numerous applicants competing for the \$5,000 award. The scholarships were established in recognition of Datatrac Chief Executive Officer Judy Burselon's Native American ancestor, David Folsom.



Crowder center gets new salad bar

Tonja Garrett, Billie Jean Pierce, Golda Smith and Lucille Jameson are proud to show off the new salad bar at Crowder's Senior Citizen Center. Tonja is the cook at the center. Billie, Golda and Lucille are three of the seniors who are 80-plus years old. The youth and some of the seniors raised money to buy the salad bar for the center. The youth are learning to eat healthy.

As they get older, many senior citizens' immune systems weaken and they can become allergic to several kinds of foods. Everyone can have a healthier choice of foods with the salad bar.



Mize family on the rodeo circuit

Jakkie Mize, 15-year-old daughter of David and Rhonda Mize, finished second in the breakaway roping at the IFYR in Shawnee, Oklahoma, with 191 girls in competition.

Little brother Colton, 6, also competed in breakaway roping in the "Heart of Oklahoma" Youth Rodeo Association where both Jakkie and Colton recently won saddles, buckles and other prizes.

The Mize children are grandchildren of Buck and Lou Phillips of Watson, Oklahoma, and Wayne and Janice Mize of Earlsboro, Oklahoma.

Sigus Freeman Johnson, Jr.

Eden Johnson is very pleased to announce the birth of her brother, Sigus Freeman Johnson, Jr. He was born on August 28, 2003, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma. He weighed 7 pounds, 10.5 ounces and was 19 inches in length. Proud parents are "Bubba" Sigus, Sr., and Winter-Star Johnson of Durant, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Emman and Nancy Spain of Konawa, Oklahoma, and the late Sigus Taylor Johnson and Della Gibson of Durant, Oklahoma.



Oliver Gervasio de Assis

Oliver Gervasio de Assis was born at 2:45 a.m. September 15, 2003, in Berekley, California. He came in weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measuring 20 inches long.

Oliver is the son of Paul and Brandi de Assis of Oakland, California. He is the grandson of Bill and Virginia Glynn of Sacramento, California, Warren Skrifvars of Pacifica, California, and Eduardo and Pauline de Assis of San Bruno, California. He has a big sister, Jeannine. He is the great-grandson of the late Jim and Margaret Anderson and the great-nephew of Davey and Mary Wilkett of McAlester, Oklahoma.

Jon Wayne Dallas Coots

Jon Wayne Dallas Coots was born September 23, 2003 at Harris Methodist in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Proud parents are Jon and Anita Coots of Ft. Worth. Grandparents are Jerry Coots of Arlington, Texas, Lucille Ludlow of Talihina, Oklahoma and Wayne and Lois Ingram of Paris, Texas.



Allie Mika McWhorter

Allie Mika McWhorter was born August 25, 2003, to Gayla and Charles McWhorter of Dierks, Arkansas. She weighed 4 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 18.5 inches in length. Grandparents include Charlie and Loretta (Hudson) Tadlock of Grannis, Arkansas. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Dixon and Sarah Hudson.

Mom Gayla is a teacher at Lockesburg, Arkansas, Public School. Welcome to the family, Allie Mika.

Kylee Ann Hampton

Kylee Ann Hampton was born at 2:09 p.m. April 14, 2003, in Durant, Oklahoma. She is the daughter of Ronnie and Marcia Hampton, Jr., of Boswell, Oklahoma and sister to Chance Tyler Hampton of Sulphur Springs, Texas. Kylee is the granddaughter of Ronnie and Letha Hampton, Sr. of Boswell, the late George Patrick Axley, and Butch and Patricia Dawson of Clayton, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Grace Hampton of Boswell, the late Ruth Ann Hutson, and Junior and Betty Dawson of Oklahoma City. She also has several aunts, uncles and cousins.



At three months old, Kylee competed in Hugo's America Cover Miss and was first runner-up. She received a runner-up trophy, a crown and a six-foot lighted trophy for her ticket sales. She has also received the right to compete in the America's Cover Miss Oklahoma State Finals which will take place November 21-23 in Tulsa. Now at six months, she has won the Universal Royalty Beautiful Faces Contest and as the winner in her age division she has received her complete supreme entry paid in full to the Universal Royalty Nationals.

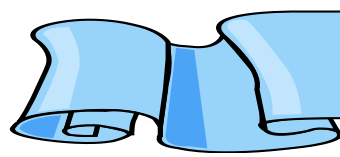
Rickey Hunter Brice Causey

Rickey Hunter Brice Causey was born February 5, 2003. He is the son of Rickey "Rico" and Carmen Causey of Broken Bow. He has four brothers, Alex, Ryder, Daniel and Allen Causey. He is the grandson of Rickey and Nancy Causey of Valliant and the nephew of Nathan and Courtney Wesley and Robert Noah. He has one cousin, Tyler Wesley.

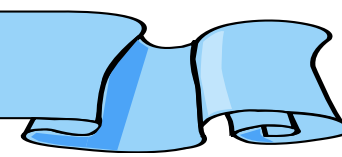


Freeman is Nurse of the Year nominee

Chief Gregory E. Pyle congratulates Barbara Freeman, LPN, on being nominated Nurse of the Year by Carl Albert Health Care Services. Barbara has been an employee of Chickasaw Health Clinic in Durant for two years. She was formerly employed by Texoma Medical Center in Denison, Texas for 21 years.



OBITUARIES



Elsie Marie Bailey

Elsie Marie Bailey, 74, of Grant, Oklahoma, passed away Saturday, October 18, 2003, in Durant, Oklahoma. Marie was born November 11, 1928, in Grant to Young Henry and Elsie G. (Rolen) Foster. She married William Harvey Bailey in 1948 in Hugo. She was a homemaker and a member of the Grant Baptist Church.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a son, Randy Bailey, on March 29, 2002, and a brother, Henry C. Foster.

Survivors include two sons, William H. "Billy" Bailey of Hugo and Mike Bailey of Durant.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 21, 2003, at the First Baptist Church. Officiating were the Rev. Otis Cayton, the Rev. Mike Armes, Brian McClain, Chief Greg Pyle, Tribal Council Speaker Kenny Bryant, and Gary Batton.

Interment was in the Grant Cemetery. Pallbearers were Ernie Taylor, Frank Deal, Wayne Wylie, Bill Blankenship, Roy Cooper and Michael Phillips. Honorary pallbearers were Elaine Justice, Janie Dillard, Diane Perrin, Nanette Wylie, Brenda VanNewkirk, Charlotte Jackson, Alice Ann Spears and Judy Allen.

Barbara Lynn (Bates) Towe

Barbara Lynn (Bates) Towe, 44, passed away on July 21, 2003, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paris, Texas. She was born May 19, 1959, in Dallas, Texas, the daughter of Elmer Bates and Geneva (Hider) Bates. She was a lifetime resident of the Hugo area.

Survivors include her husband, Jeffrey Lynn Towe; three sons, Russell Bates of Durant, Oklahoma, and Chad Bates and Jeremy Lemons, both of Hugo; mother, Geneva Fuller of Hugo; two sisters, Susan Daffern and Tammy Payne, both of Hugo; brother, DeWayne Fuller of Hugo, and three grandchildren.

Helen M. (Warren) Barbee

Helen M. (Warren) Barbee, 69, longtime Whitefield resident, passed away November 11 in her home. She was born April 23, 1933, to Paul Edgar Warren and Lona Edna (Noel) Warren in Lequire. She grew up in Lequire, Oklahoma, where she received her formal education. She continued her education at Kinta High School.

She was married to Odell Barbee on January 7, 1950, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and they made their home in Whitefield. She raised four children and devoted her life to taking care of them. She was a homemaker and adored her children and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father and her husband. Survivors include three daughters, Rhonda Lynn Ashley and husband, Don, of Denison, Texas, Janet Renaye Palmer and husband, Derrick, of Coweta, Oklahoma, and Lisa Jane Baker of Whitefield; one son, Scott Browning Barbee of Whitefield; eight grandchildren, Benjamin Bohanon, Andrew Bohanon, Cynthia Palmer, Amanda Palmer, Brandon Palmer, Brittany Palmer, Sarah Ferguson and Kelsey Baker; three great-grandchildren, Hunter Bohanon, Josh Bohanon and Katie Bohanon; her mother, Lona Edna Warren of Stigler, Oklahoma; two brothers, John Wayne Warren of Enterprise and Charles Edgar Warren of Longtown, and one sister, Diana Rose Adams of Stigler.

Karen Sue (Willyerd) Mosier

Karen Sue Mosier passed away on September 23, 2003. She was born August 6, 1956, in Durant, Oklahoma, the daughter of James R. Willyerd and Bessie (Phelps) Willyerd.

She attended school in Pottsboro, Texas. She loved to crochet and work in her yard. She liked to help people and even in passing continued to help others, as she was an organ donor. She also enjoyed spoiling her only grandchild, Stephani.

She married Tom Mosier on St. Patrick's Day, 2003. They moved to Eagle Pass, Texas, shortly after.

Sue was a descendant of original enrollee William Beal, Choctaw, and Alvira Keefer, Chickasaw.

Her beloved son, Larry Dewayne Gross, preceded her in death in August 1996.

Survivors include her parents, Bob and Bessie Willyerd of Denison, Texas; brothers, Bobby Willyerd and wife, Cheryl, of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Jeff Willyerd of Denison; sister, Jean Johnson and husband, James, Dotty Griffith and husband, Dewey, and Katy Brown and husband, Corky, all of Pottsboro, and Sharon Scott and husband, Chuck, of Shreveport, Louisiana; granddaughter, Stephani Gross of Greenville, Texas; uncles, C.J. Phelps of Denison and Charles Willyerd of South Carolina; aunts, Viola Acosta of Dallas, Texas, and Corrine Harris of Mead, Oklahoma, numerous nieces, nephews and cousins and a host of very special friends and relatives.

She will always be loved.

Ruben Stoliby

Ruben Stoliby, 90, passed away August 8, 2003, in Vancouver, Washington. He was born January 18, 1913, in Nelson, Oklahoma, the son of Folsom and Julia Dixon Stoliby.

Tragedy struck in 1923, which forever changed his life when both his parents died within three months leaving five orphaned boys, ages two to 17.

Ruben married Ethel Knapp in 1931, a union that lasted 65 years until her death in 1997. He married Hilda Thomas in 1998. She passed away in 1999. He then married Ginger Campbell in 2001.

Joining thousands of other Midwesterners, fleeing the devastation of severe drought in 1938 with four and a half children, Ruben and Ethel migrated to Woodland, Washington. He maintained his home there for 65 years.

Being in the depths of the great depression, Mr. Stoliby sought any kind of work to provide food for the family. In 1942, during World War II, he went to work in the Kaiser Shipyards in Vancouver, learning to weld on naval ships for the war effort. After that he traveled all over the country working on major construction projects to support his family.

He had a passionate love for baseball. He loved and understood all the intricacies of the game. As a young man in Oklahoma, he pitched in a sandlot league. His other passion was music. Picking his guitar, playing a harmonica and singing were major recreations in his life.

He was also preceded in death by two wives, Ethel Knapp and Hilda Thomas, and one son, Wayne Stoliby.

Survivors include his wife, Ginger Campbell, of the home; daughters, Ruby Moll and Faye Allen of Vancouver; Joyce Nance of Portland, Oregon; a son, Wayland Don Stoliby of Vancouver, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Owen J. Baker

Owen J. Baker passed away Tuesday, August 20, 2003. He was born March 9, 1927, in Battiest, Oklahoma, the son of Robinson J. and Betty (Crosby) Baker.

Prior to residing in El Paso, Texas, for 48 years, he lived in Oklahoma. He was the first in his family to graduate from high school, then he attended Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. He served in the Armed Forces in the 1950s prior to moving to Anthony, New Mexico, to work for the Justice Department, Bureau of Prisons at La Tuna, Texas. He was retired from the Justice Department and Government Employees Credit Union.

In 1955, he brought his bride, the former Agnes Ruth Bond of Bethel, to Anthony, New Mexico, where they settled. Mr. Baker was active in the Lions Club and enjoyed visiting with people, playing dominoes and cards and teasing people. His family, extended family and neighbors were important to him and he really enjoyed spending time with them. He was an avid game hunter and fisherman and enjoyed participating in these activities tremendously. Mr. Baker had a very special place in his heart for his brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Anderson Winship, James Baker, Daniel Baker, Floyd J. Baker, Walter Baker, Benjamin Baker and Roy Baker, and sisters, Gladys Wade and Mary Ann Baker.

Survivors include his wife, Agnes (Bond) Baker; daughters, Elaine Baker Watts, and her husband, Gary, and Nowena J. Baker; son, Michael Owen Baker; brother, Aaron J. Baker of Battiest, Oklahoma; sister, Edith Gem of Long Beach, California; many beloved nieces and nephews from throughout the country; two granddogs, Dylan and Melanie, and one grandcat, Iggy.

Harold Maurice Morgan

Harold Maurice Morgan, 85, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, passed away November 28, 2002. He was born September 20, 1917, in Milburn, Oklahoma.

After graduating from Classen High School in Oklahoma City, he attended the University of Oklahoma for several years, leaving to serve in Africa during World War II and returning to earn his law degree in 1947. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War. He practiced law in Oklahoma City and later in Albuquerque.

His grandmother, Lillie Carr, and his mother, Anna Lee Carr Morgan, were early registrants on the Dawes Commission's Choctaw rolls.

Anna Jean (Adams) Ware

Anna Jean (Adams) Ware passed away on September 28, 2003, in St. Petersburg, Florida. She was born February 25, 1912, in Stephens County, Oklahoma, the daughter of Esie Jones Adams and the granddaughter of Winburn B. Jones, both original enrollees in the Choctaw Nation.

She was married in June of 1932 in Oklahoma City to Dr. Stephen C. Ware who predeceased her. They lived in Kalona, Iowa, and then in Iowa City, Iowa, before coming to St. Petersburg in 1960. She resided at Suncoast Manor at the time of death.

She attended Owens Prairie School and graduated from high school in Tishomingo, Oklahoma. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma School of Nursing in 1932. She was a registered nurse.

She was a member of the First Methodist Church in Kalona, Iowa, the First Methodist Church in Iowa City and Lakewood Methodist Church in St. Petersburg. She was also a member of the Elk's Country Club in Iowa City and the Lakewood Country Club in St. Petersburg.

Four brothers and one sister also preceded her in death. Survivors include two sons, Philip S. Ware of St. Petersburg and Lyle Adams Ware and his wife, Carole, of Albuquerque, New Mexico; daughter, Charlotte A. Adams and her husband, Richard, of Myakka City, Florida; four sisters, Helen Callahan of Lawton, Oklahoma, Frances Bayless of Dallas, Texas, Mary Hansgen of Macon, Georgia, and Beth Graham of Marlow, Oklahoma; eight grandchildren, Thomas Ware of Bradenton, Florida, Janet Clark of Apopka, Florida, Ann Dryer of Jupiter, Florida, Kurt Ware of Vadnais Heights, Minnesota, Eric Ware of Plymouth, Minnesota, Kyla Cromer of Minneapolis, Elena Adams and Michael Adams, both of Mayakka City; nine great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins.

Sara Sue Tyler

Sara Sue Tyler, 57, of Stephenville, Texas, passed away Saturday, July 26, at Lake Granbury Medical Center. She was born March 13, 1946, in Idabel, Oklahoma, the daughter of Ralph and Amelia Jay (Snead) Tyler. She was the granddaughter of original enrollee Edward Paul Snead.

Sara received her bachelor's degree in education from Southeastern Oklahoma and her Ph.D. in education from Texas A&M-Commerce. She was a member of the Texas Teachers Educator Association, Texas State Readers Association, and International Reading Association. She was a member of the Stephenville First United Methodist Church, and had moved back to Stephenville in 1992 from Electra. She loved to read and had a great passion for life. She taught in the education department of Tarleton State University.

Survivors include one son, Rusty McNew of Dallas, Texas; a daughter and son-in-law, Meredith and Charles Perry of Lubbock, Texas; two grandchildren, Rustin and Zachery Perry of Lubbock; her parents, Ralph and Amelia Tyler of Midwest City, Oklahoma; brother, Ralph Warren Tyler of DeQueen, Arkansas; sister, Beverly (Tyler) Brown of Midwest City, Oklahoma, and several nieces and nephews.

Dotti Cornelius

Dotti Cornelius, 77, of Oklahoma City passed away September 29, 2003, in Deaconess Hospital. She was born on June 17, 1926, in Oklahoma City to Holden D. and Bonnie P. (Wyatt) Roane.

Dotti proudly served on the Committee of One Thousand for Hawaii statehood. She attended Central State College during the 1940s. She was a member of West Tenth Street Baptist Church where she and her husband, Bill, Sr., enjoyed serving as greeters. Dotti also served the Lord and faithfully represented her family as a Sunday school teacher as well as singing in the choir in other churches throughout their military travels.

Some of Dotti's greatest joys in life were time spent with her grandson, music, reading and time at the beach.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother and a sister. Survivors include her husband, William Cornelius, Sr., of the home; son, William "Bill" Cornelius, Jr., and his wife, Becky, of Oklahoma City, and one grandson, William Cornelius III of Oklahoma City.



Glenda Perez Monticello

Glenda Perez Monticello, 37, of Durant, Oklahoma, passed away Thursday, October 2, 2003, at Wilson N. Jones Hospital in Sherman, Texas. She was born August 2, 1966, in Talihina, Oklahoma, to Sylvia McDaniel.

She married Luis Monticello on March 22, 2002, in Denison, Texas. She worked in the finance department of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her father, Audie Cummins, Sr., and a daughter, Tashina Catherine Denise Perez.

Survivors include her husband of the home; mother of Denison; children, Jordan and Brandon McDaniel and Crystal and Amanda Perez, all of Durant; sisters and brothers, Sharlene, Ashley, Antonio and Audie Cummins, Jr., all of Denison, and several nieces and nephews.

Jacqueline Jean (Mix) Timberman

Jacqueline Jean Timberman, 62, of Albion, Oklahoma, formerly of Colebren, Colorado, passed away September 11, 2003. She was born on September 29, 1941, in Gunnison, Colorado, to John and Myrtle Willie-Mix.

She was a homemaker and enjoyed her children and grandchildren. Jackie was a very special lady always willing to lend a helping hand, loved to crochet and loved spending time with her family. She married Raymond Timberman on May 6, 1978, in North Glen, Colorado.

She was preceded in death by her father, John Mix; brother, Sonny Marsh, and granddaughter, Hanna Timberman.

Survivors include her husband, Raymond of the home; three sons, Jack Harris of Byers, Colorado, Tim Harris of Meeker, Colorado, and Raymond McBroom of Mesa, Colorado; two daughters, Lynn Harris of Byers and Shawna Anderson of Edwards, California; one stepson, Raymond Timberman of Albion; 13 grandchildren; three brothers, James Bottomiller of Chitwood, British Columbia, John Mix of Molina, Colorado, and Joe Mix of North Glen, Colorado; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Jeanett and Jim Rauch of Mesa, Colorado, and Juanita Medez of Denver, Colorado; father-in-law, Raymond L. Timberman of Commerce City, Colorado; mother, Myrtle McBroom of Fruita, Colorado; numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Ada (Quinton) McKee

Ada (Quinton) McKee, 86, of Visalia, California, formally a resident of Alpaugh, California, for 46 years, passed away August 1, 2003. She was born August 17, 1916, in Quinton, Oklahoma, to Samuel Levi and Jalia Bell (Gray) Quinton.

Ada married Daniel J. McKee on June 20, 1937, in Quinton. Five days later they began their journey to California where they lived when Daniel preceded her in death on December 11, 1985.

Ada was very proud of her Choctaw heritage, but most of all proud that the town of her birth, Quinton, Oklahoma, was also her family name. The town of Quinton was named for Ada's grandmother, Elizabeth Jacobs Quinton, who passed away April 24, 1941, at the age of 115 years, 4 months and 29 days.

Survivors include daughter and son-in-law, Irene and Joe Mobley of Hanford, California; son and daughter-in-law, John and Judy McKee of California Hot Springs, California; grandchildren, Karen and Gene Walker of Graham, Washington, Phillip and Tammy Mobley of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Rodney Mobley of Hanford, California, Clarinda and Jim Heubner, Perry and Tammy McKee of Roswell, New Mexico; great-grandchildren, Lori and Ashley MacDonald, Kristopher, Joe and Courtney Mobley, Molly Mobley, Ian and Alya Brumana and Sarah McKee; great-great-grandchild, Devon Brumana; sister, Madeline Wren of Henryetta, Oklahoma, and one sister-in-law, Evelyn Quinton of Dewar, Oklahoma.

Prince L. Holland

Prince L. Holland passed away September 10, 2003. He was born August 1, 1913, in Sawyer, Oklahoma, to James Clarence Holland and Selma Howard Holland.

He married Lois King on October 24, 1933, at Hugo, Oklahoma. They moved from Oklahoma to California where he worked on the Shasta Dam, then to Sweet Home, Oregon, where he pursued a logging career that took him to Wolf Creek, Oregon, Bonner, Montana, and ended in Kamiah, Idaho, when he retired from Potiatch Corp.

His hobbies included gardening, fishing, collecting model trains and growing grapes for his homemade wine.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois; three sons, Jimmy, Jerry and Leonard, and a daughter, Jeannie Kuehn.

Survivors include six sons, Donald of Wolf Creek, Howard of San Diego, David of Peck, Dwain of Merlin, Oregon, and Floyd and Bob of Kamiah; four daughters, Betty Sue Huckaby of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Janie Brickey of Dallas, Oregon, Linda Stevenson of Missoula, Montana, and Margaret Downing of Sherwood, Oregon; brothers, Buddy of Oklahoma City and Walter of Sawyer; 36 grandchildren, 40 great-great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

Curtis Frank "Frankie" Peters

Curtis Frank "Frankie" Peters, 57, a longtime Lane, Oklahoma, area resident, passed away April 21, 2003, at his residence in Lane. He was born January 1, 1946, at Talihina, the son of Allen Fulsom Peters and Lorene Mae Peters. He attended school in Lane and Atoka, Oklahoma, and was affiliated with the Double Spring Church at Lane. He was a general laborer and masonry helper.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his grandparents, William and Tracy Peters.

Survivors include two sisters, Bonnie Duty of Atoka and Freda Sue Brown and husband, Justin, of Oklahoma City; one brother, Pete Lombness of Oklahoma City; three half-sisters, Joanna, Faye and Deloris, all of Southerland, Texas; three nephews, Phil W. Duty of Atoka, Ronnie Melton and B.J. Dugger; three aunts, Rebecca Cole of Lane; Lizzie LeFlore and Edna Mae Jackson, both of Atoka; a special friend and neighbor, Jan Walker of Lane; and many other relatives and many dear and loved friends.

