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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

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October 2003 Issue

Ceremony held at EOSC for GED grads

The Choctaw Nation GED class graduated 70 adults this year, with many of them participating in a cap and gown ceremony in their honor at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton.

Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation, Mike Bailey, asked that everyone remember the graduates in prayer. He commended each and every one who received their certificate. "It is easier when you are young, 18 and still in school to graduate. I admire each of you for this accomplishment. This GED certificate opens many opportunities to you."

Assistant Chief Bailey told the graduates, "We're very proud of you. Hold your head up high and continue to pursue your education." The pursuit of higher education was made more financially feasible by an announcement from the college president, Dr. William J. Campion, that a \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to any of the GED graduates who choose to attend classes at EOSC.

President of the State Board of Regents, John Massey, was the keynote speaker for the event. "I can't think of a better way to spend a Friday evening than to talk to young people who have a desire to succeed in life."

Massey complimented the Chief, Assistant Chief and Council for the tremendous assistance the Choctaw Nation offers through education programs. "The Choctaw Nation has leaders who truly believe in education," said Massey. "Mike Bailey and Greg Pyle are the most dedicated public servants I have ever been around in my life."

"Nobody can make today a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending," said Massey. "Your Father in heaven knows who you are. He knows where you are going and he wants you to claim your place in society."



2003 Graduates

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Robin Acuna | Andrea Damon | Gabriel Going | Jayson Knight | Tabatha Morris | Steven Six | Rehauna Williams |
| Gabriel Baken | Chelcey Davenport | Allen Greenwood | Jeffrey Lockler | Jonathan Mullins | Ellen Starkey | Kathie Willie |
| Brandon Caldwell | Laden Dow | Shane Hampton | Ronald Lewis | Kimberly Oxford | Dana Stoneburner | Jennifer Willis |
| Gaylon Christie | Tiny Dyer | Marsha Harley | Kristie Marris | Lional Poafpybitty | Debbie Thain | Matthew Wilson |
| Micheal Clark | Jack Flanagan | Matthew Harrod | Katherine Martin | Eric Rainwater | Matthew Thomas | John Wimsett |
| Kenneth Coffman | Misty Fox | Shawna Hibbs | Melinda Mathis | Lee Roman | Devon Tidwell | Scotty Wright |
| Jonathan Cooper | Lacy Fuller | Luella Hurd | David McDonald | Alisha Scott | David Tonihka | Jamie Yancy |
| Sky Crank | Lena Garcia | Jerry John | Penny McGuffin | Angela Sellers | Weena Turley | David Yearby |
| Travis Cress | Amanda Garman | Samantha Johnson | Randale McKinney | Shambri Sewell | Brandy Walker | Amanda Zeiler |
| Phillip Crosby | Timothy Garman | Shaunna Jones | Laura Moore | David Shomo | Christina White | Shauntae Zoph |

Class on campus



Jones Academy first- and second-graders benefit from the newest technology and more one-on-one time

Instead of traveling by bus to attend classes at Hartshorne this year, one first-grader and six second-graders are being taught on campus at Jones Academy.

"The small group means we have more one-on-one time," said their teacher, Iva Dawkins. She is able to focus on each student's strengths as well as their weak points. Class starts at 8 a.m. with the morning hours devoted to the basics. During the afternoon, the students enjoy working with computers and learning programs that boost their skills. Time is also set aside for physical activity.

Grades three through twelve will be added over the next six years until all of the students will be taught at Jones Academy.

"The students and staff are excited about the re-establishment of the academic program at Jones Academy," said Administrator Brad Spears. "We would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for its continued support of Jones Academy and the positive impact on the lives of the students."

Nowatha Mathis and Alisha Picone, above, and Bvianna Bernal, right, work with phonics, while Bennie Simpson, Neosha Kauley and Jorge Teahquo, below, learn with computers. Not pictured is Jeremy Barker. Teacher Iva Dawkins and students would like to wish Neosha a happy ninth birthday on September 14.



Choctaw Nation Health Care Center

Hospital honored for quality care

The Choctaw Nation Health Care Center is one of 22 Oklahoma hospitals honored for improving the quality of care to its surgical patients.

A multi-disciplinary team of health providers from the hospital participated in OFMQ's "Oklahoma Surgical Infection Prevention Collaborative," a ten-month project dedicated to preventing surgical site infections.

Two to five percent of all surgical patients develop a surgical site infection and approximately half of those infections are preventable.

"Choctaw Nation Health Care Center's participation in quality improvement programs like this collaborative shows its dedication to providing the highest quality of care to their patients," said Russell Postier, M.D., collaborative chairman and chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Uni-

versity of Oklahoma, College of Medicine.

During the collaborative, teams of physicians, nurses, administrators and surgical staff attended three learning sessions and developed strategies aimed at changing processes to improve surgical outcomes for their patients. Between sessions, the teams worked to implement these processes in their hospitals.

Choctaw Nation Health Care Center's team was recognized for its achievements and shared its progress with teams from across the state during the Outcomes Congress on August 28 at the Waterford Marriott in Oklahoma City.

"Although this collaborative focused on preventing surgical infections, the methodology the teams learned can be applied to any clinical area," Postier said.

Transportation established to health clinics

The Tribal Council voted September 13 to establish transportation services in Bryan, Coal and Hughes Counties to assist patients in going to the Choctaw Nation medical facilities. These three counties are in the health service delivery area of the Chickasaw Nation, yet tribal members who wish to receive services at one of the Choctaw Nation clinics or hospital may do so. This new transportation service from the Choctaw Nation will make it possible for many more people to seek health care from Choctaw Nation.

Approval was unanimous to continue the appointment of Mike Bailey as Assistant Chief. The officers of the Council also remain the same. Elected by acclamation to serve the upcoming year were Kenny Bryant, Speaker; Charlotte Jackson, Secretary, and Jack Austin, Chaplain.

Councilman Ted Dosh, who has served more years than any other Council person, was appointed to serve on the Arkansas Riverbed Authority.

Funding was approved to erect a memorial on the Tribal Capitol Grounds in honor of Choctaws

killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom. It is possible the monument may be ready to unveil at this year's Veterans Day ceremony.

Three shuttle buses will be purchased for Crowder, Smithville and Spiro Community Centers. These are used primarily for the senior citizens of the communities so that they may participate in the senior nutrition meals and various other trips and tribal activities.

Funds were approved so that plans to improve and enlarge existing gaming sites can be completed. New construction in Durant will include a new casino, entertainment center and an addition to the Choctaw Inn. A new casino will also be constructed at Grant and the Pocola center will be enlarged and improved.

Budgets for several programs were approved and/or amended, including Choctaw Language, Cultural Resources, Educational Talent Search, and Upward Bound Math & Science.

The next Regular Session is scheduled for 10 a.m. on October 11.

Taking care of people

Dear Chief Gregory Pyle and Assistant Chief Mike Bailey,

I am a student at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. I had the privilege to work as an intern at the Choctaw Nation Safety and Development Department this summer. I had no idea what to expect when I began, or what I would be doing. I was a little worried I would come away with nothing from the job, and that I would be discouraged from pursuing my major in safety. I soon found out that I wouldn't have that worry any longer, but I would have a new topic to be concerned about and that would be with the employees of the Choctaw Nation. I learned that the Safety and Development Department is about taking care of their own people in the work place, and keeping them from getting injured. I was amazed to see how much we are involved in the Choctaw Nation. I was blown away by the passion the department has to help, and how much of a need there is for it to operate within the nation.

I have nothing but good things to say about Matt Gregory and Christi Burwick. Not because they are my bosses or because I worked with them, but because they have put a fire in me to help people. I see how much good can come from safety, and the feeling I have knowing I am helping keep people safe is a great feeling. Dr. Jones, Chairman of the Safety Department at Southeastern, has a saying, "When someone asks you what you do, you tell them you save lives!" That type of fire, or passion for a job I thought I could only find serving God, but I also find myself feeling almost the same way working in safety.

I find myself today interning for Choctaw Nation while I still attend classes at Southeastern. I plan on graduating in May of 2004 and thanks to the Choctaw Nation for giving me an opportunity to work in the safety field, I am ready to join the work force and save lives. I would like to once again thank Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey for everything and wish you the best. May God bless you all and the Choctaw Nation.

Shane Meshaya

Thank you for much-needed items

Dear Chief Gregory Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

I would like to write and say thank you for my wheel chair and supplies. I can go to church now. Richadean Jackson and Tammy from the Poteau office and Dr. Tompkins were a blessing to me. Tammy, one of the nurses who came out to see me, is a very special nurse. She is wonderful. I don't know what I would have done without the love of God and the Choctaw Nation. May God bless you all and thank you so very much.

Deborah McGrath
Panama, Oklahoma

Contacting childhood friend

Dear Editor,

I would like to locate a childhood friend, Napanee Brown. I have heard she lives in Bartlesville, Oklahoma but I don't know her last name. We were classmates in elementary school in Idabel. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Victor Brown. Thank you for any help you can give.

Pat Green Swafford
2805 Briarwood
Durant, OK 74701

Tracing ancestry

Dear Editor,

I am looking for information on Joseph Ward. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Giles Thompson of Boggy Depot, Indian Territory. They had a son, William Giles, born November 1847 in Panola County, I.T., north of Old Warren, Texas. William Giles died in 1930 and is buried in Caddo Cemetery in Bryan County. He was married to Elizabeth Beck, a Cherokee, on July 14, 1868. She was a daughter of Caleb McDaniel and Martha Beck. William and Eliza had five children who lived - Timothy L., born in 1869; Cora E., born in 1877; Charles A., born February 6, 1874; Daisy, born in 1875, and William Henry, born in 1881. William Giles was elected representative for Blue County in 1889. He also joined "The Wheel." He was also known as Willie G.

All help is appreciated.

Giles Ward
583 Private Road 718
Lipan, TX 76462
940-745-1067
jglover@wf.net

Thankful for the help of Choctaws

Dear Editor,

On June 8, my nephew, James Mooring of Muldrow, Oklahoma, passed away. The Choctaw Nation took care of his funeral. We greatly appreciate the help. He was the son of Aline and Lige Mooring and grandson of G.W. "Bud" Byrum and Maude Cooper Byrum. Maude was an original enrollee. His great-grandfather was Norris Copper, an original enrollee.

Tommie Byrum
Redding, California



Spc Michael Lynch is pictured with his mother, Evangeline Watson Lynch, on the day he was deployed to Iraq from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, April 13, 2003.

Care packages appreciated

Dear Chief Pyle,

I just wanted to send a thank you for the care packages that I have received while deployed here in Iraq, and to thank all those responsible for the putting together of these packages. I shared with my tent, so from Tent #5 1174th Trans Co, Halito til our safe return home.

Spc Michael G. Lynch

Grateful for support and prayers

Dear Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey,

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for all the support and prayers that you have given me after my car accident. Thanks, Chief and Assistant Chief, for your kindness and deepest concern. It is very much appreciated. Also, thanks to Gary Batton for his calls and concern and to Charlene Grunstad and her staff for the many hours spent on me to receive the help that I needed.

I would also like to say thanks to Russell Sossoman, Duane Winship and everybody at Choctaw Nation Housing Authority where I am employed for all the support, prayers, gift baskets, and donations. They are very much appreciated. A special thanks to all who helped remove the vehicle. I could not have done it without you all.

I would also like to thank Gina Edwards, Jane Maxwell, Herbert Jessie, and Charles Gooding for all the telephone calls that I received each week from them. They really helped keep my spirits up. Thanks to Social Services for all their help. I have received many calls, cards and prayers. I am very grateful to all.

A special thanks to my daughter, Amanda, Lee, Dylan. Thank you for the love, time and support. Thanks to Melissa Stevens, Wanda Vanderveen, Amanda and Sue Stevens for the welcome home party and to the rest of my family for all the support they have given me.

Thanks everybody for all the prayers.

Anita Stevens
Boswell, Oklahoma

Center receives improvements

Dear Editor,

We would like to give a very special thank you to District 7 Councilman Jack Austin for all of the nice improvements he had done to the Wright City Community Center. We really appreciate it.

The Senior Citizens

Students enjoy Six Flags

Dear Editor,

The students and teachers of the Alternative Class at Wright City School would like to extend a very special thank you to District 7 Councilman Jack Austin. Mr. Austin made our trip to Six Flags possible, enjoyable and a huge success.

The students at Wright City School,
Mary Andoe and Betty Bush

Seeking information

Dear Editor,

I am looking for information about my great-grandmother. Her name is Georgia Annie Booth and her husband's name is Frank M. Porter. Her father's name is Marine Booth. Her children are Eddie Lee Porter, Walter Oliver Porter and C.B. Porter.

Any information on this would be greatly appreciated.

Bobby Porter
849 3rd SW
Paris, Texas 75460

Reunions

JONES MALE ACADEMY ALUMNI

The Jones Academy "All Boys School" Reunion will be Saturday, October 18 on the campus of Jones Academy. All Jones boys who attended the school through the year 1954 are encouraged to attend the reunion.

Registration is at 10 a.m. Activities are planned for the entire day. Lunch is at 12:30 p.m., supper at 5:30 and the school's annual gospel singing begins at 7 p.m. For more information, please call Jimmy Bruner at 580-298-3136; Ted LeFlore at 580-889-7989; Tully Choate at 918-455-7255 or Tom Williston at 580-286-3585.

PADDOCK

The Paddock Family Reunion is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sunday, October 19 at Boland Park, corner of Choctaw and Court St., in Caddo, Oklahoma. Lunch will be served at 12 noon. All friends and family are invited.

HATTENSTY-ANDERSON

Descendants of Thomas Hattensty and Phoebe Anderson will be having their annual reunion Saturday, October 11. The family reunion will be held at the Arbuckle RV Resort community building in Sulphur, Oklahoma, beginning at 10:30 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. (come and go). Take I35 exit 55 to Davis, Oklahoma, then go ten miles east of Davis on Hwy. 7, and 3/4 mile south on Cooper Memorial Road.

The Hattensty-Anderson family genealogy book (still in rough draft) will be at the reunion, so bring details of births of new family members, marriages, deaths, achievements, and stories to add to the family record. Come meet your cousins, share a meal, and celebrate your family heritage. Bring your favorite dish for a potluck lunch. For more information, contact Anna Vannoy, 405-369-3917, or Barbara Awbrey, 405-324-8728.

HASKELL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Haskell Alumni Association of Oklahoma, Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kansas, invites all Haskell alumni and friends to the annual Haskell Reunion, October 24-26 at Western Hills Lodge in Sequoyah State Park, east of Wagoner, Oklahoma. Please pass this information on to all alumni and friends! For information on special room rates, the reception party, Saturday golf, dinner/dance or Sunday activities, contact Joyce (Childers) Bear, 918-756-8700, ext. 603, e-mail Cultural@ocvnet.org, or Leon Yahola at 918-616-3757.

Taking the high road not easy

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the lead story concerning fisherman Jimmy Houston. Houston's courage to take the high road concerning endorsements resonated deeply within me. Just as I found BISHINIK in my mailbox earlier today, I was recovering from being reproved for taking a moral stand in a similar professional matter. It is not always easy to do what is right!

Being a member of Choctaw Nation is a source of pride and strength for me every day. Thank you for all that you do.

Keith Calmes
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

Curious about family history

Dear Editor,

I would appreciate any help you can give me on the history of my family on my father's side. His name is Orea Edward Oliver and he was born on July 16, 1922 in the state of Oklahoma. I am not sure what town.

His father was Madison Stillwell Oliver who married Ollie Repzsond on the 24th day of November, 1908. They were both born in Texas, I believe, but when they got married they were living in Shultz, Oklahoma. Madison was either 23 or 25 at the time and Ollie was 17 years of age. Ollie's father's name was J.A. Repzsond. I know that I am part Indian but not sure if it's Cherokee or Choctaw. I know that some of the relatives to the Olivers are Allgood and Stout. This is all the information I have. Thank you so much for your time and trouble with this.

Ronald D. Oliver #936944
1098 S. Hwy. 2037
Fort Stockton, TX 79735-9795



Broken Bow National All-Star Team: front, Jeffrey Kemp, Trevor Kirkes, Blake Medders, Kody Lawler, Mitchell Hadley and Trenton Price; middle, Derek Jamison, Colby Crosby, Dillion Beene, Bubba Short, Kolt Crawford, Stephen Knox, Hannah Goodman, and back, Dayne Medders, Malicha Beene, Audrey Crosby and Donnie Price.

All-Stars say thanks

Dear Editor,

A special thanks is sent to Councilman Jack Austin for sponsoring the All-Star Team coached by Archie Crosby of Wright City, Oklahoma.

Help given in time of need

Dear Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey, Hap Ward, Matilda Davis, Charlene Grunstad and the Choctaw Nation,

I want to say thank you for helping us in time of need when my husband was in Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Again, I say thank you to you all. You're the best.

Vicky and Robert Bailey

Looking for great-aunt's heirs

Dear Editor,

I am seeking information on any heirs of my great-aunt, Lucy Taylor Murray, who may be living. Her children are George, Lilly, Frances, Henry, Jr., and Ella. I know that they are dead, but perhaps her grandchildren or great-grandchildren are living.

Emmit Murray
622 11th NW
Ardmore, OK 73401

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Recognition Upon Graduation
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The Southeastern Honors Program is a unique educational experience for students with special talents and outstanding academic abilities.

We are looking for High School Seniors of Choctaw descent with an ACT composite score of 25 or SAT of 1130 or higher from a National Test Date.

If you or someone you know fits this description, contact Jo McDaniel with the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department at 1-800-522-6170 ext. 2277.

Deadline for students to apply is January 23, 2004

Last year, 55 scholarships were awarded to students accepted into the Honors Program:

- 1 Parsons Scholarship valued at \$24,628 over 4 years
- 1 Academic Scholarship valued at \$23,800 over 4 years
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- 5 Academic Scholars by Nomination Scholarships valued at \$15,500 over 4 years
- 37 Presidential Honors Scholarships valued at \$6,400 over 4 years
- 4 Out-of-State Scholarships valued at \$26,400 over 4 years

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| <p>Judy Allen, Editor Lisa Reed, Assistant Editor Vonna Shults, Webmaster Brenda Wilson, Technical Assistant Melissa Stevens, Circulation Manager Faye Self, Community Liaison</p> | | |
| <p>P.O. Drawer 1210 Durant, OK 74702 (580) 924-8280 • (800) 522-6170 Fax (580) 924-4148 www.choctawnation.com e-mail: bishinik@choctawnation.com</p> | | |
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From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Veterans Day will be an emotional occasion

Many of us have loved ones serving overseas in the military, and concern for their very lives has kept a constant prayer line open to God. Events all over the world will make this year's Veterans Day ceremony an especially emotional occasion.

It is with great respect that I ask each and every one who is able to come to the Tribal Capitol Grounds, Tushka Homma, on November 11th to honor all of the men and women who have worn a uniform on behalf of our country. A token of gratitude will be presented to each veteran who is present.

I hope that those who will not be able to join us at Tushka Homma for the special tribute to our soldiers will pause for a moment that day in memory of those who have died and in regard of those who still serve.

The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will be followed by lunch for all in attendance. Staff will be on hand at 10:00 a.m. to begin distributing the tribe's gift to veterans.

There is a large monument inside the Capitol Grounds gate bearing the names of Choctaws who were killed in action during war time, and next to it is a gray granite memorial with the names of the Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I. The Council has just appropriated money for a monument to be in tribute of Choctaws killed in the war against terrorism. One name has been submitted at this time – Jerod Dennis, who was killed in Afghanistan while fighting against terrorism.

Names are added each year to the monument for WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. There are three names that have been given to the monument engraver for addition this year – John Floyd Wall and Thomas Reed Satterfield of WWII and Lee Chris Dixon of Vietnam.

I hope to see you November 11th, as we join together to remember the dedication and commitment of veterans past and present.

Veterans
Day
~~~  
Tuesday  
November 11  
~~~  
Staff on hand
10 a.m.
~~~  
Ceremony  
11 a.m.  
~~~  
Tushka Homma



From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

Groundbreakings, ribbon cuttings highlight October

There is an absolute flurry of groundbreakings and grand openings scheduled for this month. The grand opening of the Diabetes Wellness Center at Talihina is a landmark in Chief Pyle's quest for better health of all Choctaws. This will be a tremendous facility for tribal members to utilize. The best care for

diabetics, including treatment of complications caused by the disease, will be available at the new center. Pharmacy will also be on-site.

Four Independent Living Communities for elderly citizens have been opened recently. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled in October for communities in Poteau, Hartshorne, and Hugo. Other Independent Living Communities offer housing in Talihina and Idabel.

The new Choctaw Community Center in Spiro is complete, and a grand opening is scheduled there for October 21st. Two clinics are scheduled for a groundbreaking – one in Stigler and one in Idabel. The Choctaw Recovery Center is due for a new building, and construction will begin soon at Talihina for their facility.

One of the most exciting construction projects is the new casino and entertainment center in Durant. There will also be a new casino built in Grant and tremendous expansion of the casino in Pocola.

These gaming facilities, along with other tribal businesses, create the revenue that is used for tribal services.

I am very proud of all that the Choctaw Nation has to offer, and the growth of programs and services is necessary to meet an ever increasing need.



Dinners will be held at the following centers

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Atoka | 11:30 a.m. | November 5 |
| Durant | 6:00 p.m. | November 10 |
| Idabel | 11:30 a.m. | November 12 |
| Crowder | 11:30 a.m. | November 13 |
| Wright City | 6:00 p.m. | November 13 |
| Stigler | 11:30 a.m. | November 14 |
| Poteau | 5:30 p.m. | November 14 |
| Talihina | 11:30 a.m. | November 17 |
| Tushka Homma | 6:00 p.m. | November 17 |
| Broken Bow | 11:30 a.m. | November 18 |
| (for both Broken Bow and Bethel) | | |
| Hugo | 6:00 p.m. | November 18 |
| McAlester | 11:30 a.m. | November 19 |
| Spiro | 11:30 a.m. | November 19 |
| Coalgate | 12 noon | November 20 |
| Antlers | 6:00 p.m. | November 20 |
| Wilburton | 11:30 a.m. | November 21 |

Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

May the Spiritual Life of our Choctaw people grow with the growth of the Choctaw Nation. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD ..." (Psalm 33:12)

The thirteenth chapter of Matthew, with eight parables, reveals the purpose for our life today and what we should be doing on earth now. The first parable of the Sower, one of the two the Lord Jesus Christ interpreted, is the Key to the thirteenth chapter and the thirteenth chapter is the Key to the Gospel of Matthew. Then, the parable of the Sower is the Key to the Bible. That's how important this parable really is.

After our Lord Jesus gave these parables, He said to His disciples in Matthew 13:11: "... It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, ..."

What is the Kingdom of Heaven? It is the lane of the Heavens over the earth. If there is a life open to Jesus Christ, yielded, bowing to Him, and doing His will, then there is the Kingdom of Heaven, even today, on this earth.

What is the present condition of the Kingdom? That's the reason Matthew 13 with these parables is so important, for these parables reveal the present condition of the Kingdom.

And this is the parable – Matthew 13:3: "Behold, a Sower went forth to sow." That was a familiar sight in Palestine. You couldn't get anything that's more familiar than that to illustrate spiritual truth. The interpretation of this parable is very simple, too, because Jesus gave us the interpretation. Let's identify each part of this parable.

The Sower – who is he? We read in Matthew 13:37: "... He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man." The Lord Jesus Christ Himself, the One who spoke the parable, is the One who is the Sower. He is sowing seed.

What is the Seed? Matthew 13:19 says: "When anyone heareth the Word of the Kingdom." What is the seed – the seed is the Word. The Word of God is seed.

What is the Field where the seed is being sown? In Matthew 13:38 we read: "The field is the world, ..." Now we have the Person identified, we have the Seed identified, and we have the Field identified.

Look at what He is doing. He is sowing Seed. Matthew 13:3 reads: "And He spake many



things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a Sower went forth to sow."

This is the picture of our Lord Jesus Christ the Sower, taking the Word of God and sowing it in the world.

There are four types of ground that the seed falls on. Three-fourth of the seeds does not fall on good ground and they die and nothing comes from it. There is nothing wrong with the seed. This is the living Word of God. The problem is with the ground. The kind of ground determines what is going to happen to the seed. You can be any ground you want to be. It's up to you.

Some seed fell by the wayside. Notice this in Matthew 13:19: "When any one heareth the Word of the Kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside."

None of these are Christians. They are church members, professing Christians, but they have heard the Word. The birds take the seeds away. They have heard the Word but it is not the hearing of faith. They have a form of faith. Christianity is a sideline. They come once on Sunday. That ends it for the week as far as they are concerned. We sow the seed and they happen to be wayside ground.

Then there is the second type – the rocky ground. Matthew 13:20 says: "But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the Word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the Word, by and by he is offended."

These are the rocky ground

hearers. These are the flesh. You see the devil got the first one, the flesh got these and they are the opposite from the others. This is the emotional type. They were anon with joy they receive it. How excited they get that greatly move.

Then there is the third – the thorn. Matthew 13:22 says: "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."

Care of the world – poverty – and the deceitfulness of riches – those that are rich – are the two hardest groups to reach today with the Gospel. And these are those that fall among the thorns and there are a lot of professing Christians like that today. They struggle and strive and finally they give it up.

The devil gets some, the flesh gets some and the world gets some. The world, the flesh and the devil are ready to take the seed that is sowed. They are not different types of believers. They are not believers. They are those who have heard the Word and profess to receive it.

Finally, will you notice in Matthew 13:23: "But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Now these are the believers and they are different types of believers – hundredfold, sixtyfold, thirtyfold.

Those are the three classes of real believers today. They receive the Word and understand it. God has given to every believer the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will interpret this Book and give you an understanding. That doesn't mean that you understand everything in it. It doesn't mean that you don't need to study the Word. But it does mean this, that you have been given a Teacher that no one else has and you can understand and if you are sincere He will see that you understand.

If you have not received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you can pray something like this: "O God, I am a sinner, I trust Jesus as my Savior." (Acts 16:30-31)

Pray for America. Pray for the Native Americans. Pray for our Nation's and Spiritual leaders. May God bless you.



Scholarships available from CCIM

The CCIM Institute is actively seeking minority candidates to sponsor as they seek to increase minority membership. To attract minority professionals to commercial real estate, CCIM Institute now offers scholarships for its introductory course to selected students. The coveted CCIM designation is the premier designation for real estate agents practicing the majority of their business in the investment and income property arena.

The CCIM designation conveys to the public that the agent has successfully completed the rigorous classroom and field experience necessary to establish their qualifications as a recognized expert in the field. The class tuition typically ranges from \$700 to \$875 for each class. Native Americans are seriously under-represented in this industry and the CCIM Institute would like to increase the numbers of Native Americans with the CCIM designation.

Please contact Kenneth Epley, Real Estate Broker, 415-296-1000, or go to the CCIM website www.ccim.com.

Notes from Choctaw Code Talkers Association

COOKBOOK

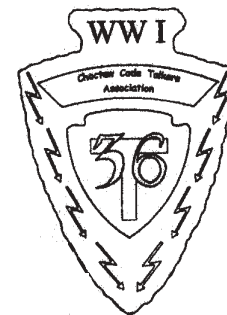
The cookbooks went on sale Labor Day weekend in Tuskahoma. Due to a printing error a few pages of these cookbooks were omitted. Please contact Evangeline Wilson, President, P.O. Box 1671, Chickasha, OK 73023 or (405)-222-0142, and she will mail you the missing pages. All new cookbook orders will be mailed as soon as we receive the revised cookbooks from the printer. We thank you for your orders!

WINNER

The winner of the drawing was Ronnie Jack of Pocola, Oklahoma.

LOCATING FAMILY OF CHOCTAW CODE TALKERS

We are trying to locate the families of these World War I Choctaw Code Talkers: Noel



Johnson, Smithville, Oklahoma; Pete Maytubbe (Maytubby), Lester, Oklahoma, and Jeff Nelson. If you are a family member or know a family member, please contact Evangeline Wilson or any association member.

LOST

At the annual meeting, two notebooks were misplaced. If you picked them up by mistake, please return them to Evangeline Wilson.

JOINING THE ASSOCIATION

If you would like to become a member of the Choctaw Code Talkers Association, please contact Charnell Williamson, 427 Murphy Drive, Crescent, OK 73028, and she will mail you a membership form.

It was great to see everyone at the annual meeting!

Homebuyer Education Workshops scheduled

Do you dream of owning your own home? The Choctaw Nation Home Finance Department offers a variety of programs to help you become a homeowner.

Free workshops and homebuyer counseling services provide the information you will need to help you become a homeowner. These services are available to any Native American – at all income levels.

Issues covered include budgeting, insurance, realtors, lending process and credit issues.

The Choctaw Nation Housing Authority has two locations that build modular homes. Please attend one of the Homebuyer's classes to find out if you are eligible to purchase a new modular home.

Classes will be held in the following locations:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| October 14 | Hugo | 10 a.m. |
| October 16 | Broken Bow | 5:30 p.m. |
| October 21 | Purcell | 2 p.m. |
| October 23 | Wilburton | 10 a.m. |
| October 28 | Atoka | 6 p.m. |
| November 4 | McAlester | 6 p.m. |
| November 6 | Durant | 6 p.m. |

To register for a class or get more information, please call Nancy Kirby at the Choctaw Housing Authority, 1-800-235-3087 ext. 301.

Parents can help kids become more active

Why are kids in the United States leading the world in weight? TV, computer games and video games are part of the problem.

Consider purchasing your child a pedometer (step counter) to see how many steps a day your child takes. Then set a personal goal of increasing your steps by 3,000 to 4,000 steps. If the kid can maintain that level, then raise it again. The important thing is not to discourage the child by setting unrealistic goals. Parents could reward kids for meeting weekly step goals.

Remember where your kids learn about a healthy lifestyle. Parents with poor eating habits and a sedentary lifestyle will pass that on to their children.

Tips on becoming more active

- Monitor TV watching, computer games and computer time other than homework. Set a limit – an hour a day – on watching TV.
- Make sure kids have time to be outside.
- Plan outdoor activities as a family.
- Moms, Dads – get out and play with the kids!
- Enroll kids in after-school programs that promote physical activity.
- Make sure your child participates in school physical education classes.

Activity is only half the answer. The other half is nutrition.

- Make healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables available in the home.
- Find alternatives to fast food.
- Starting in the toddler years, limit the child's juice and soft drink intake.
- Provide easy-to-eat snack alternatives. Have cut-up celery and carrots on hand.
- Don't totally deprive kids of less-healthy snacks. Kids who feel deprived are more likely to gorge on these foods when they can get their hands on them. Moderation is the key.

USDA Livestock Assistance Program to aid producers

Sign-up continues until October 24

Livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses caused by natural disasters will find some relief through the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) offered by the USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA).

"This program provides additional relief to livestock producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought, severe weather and related causes, and have limited safety net and risk management tools available," said Jim Reese, State Executive Director.

LAP sign-up began August 6 and ends October 24, 2003.

"The program is intended to address the needs of producers who were not adequately covered by the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), but producers cannot receive payments

under both programs for the same loss," said Reese.

"A producer's LAP payment will be reduced by the amount(s) the producer received under the Livestock Compensation Program - I and Livestock Compensation Program - II, regardless of whether the LAP payment is for 2001 or 2002," Reese added.

Authorized by the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003, LAP provides \$250 million, nationwide, to livestock producers for grazing losses that occurred in either 2001 or 2002.

Under LAP, a producer's grazing land must be located in a county that was declared a primary disaster area under a Presidential or Secretarial declaration. That county must have been approved after January 1, 2001, and a designation requested no later than February 20, 2003, and subsequently ap-

proved. Contiguous counties are not eligible.

For those counties designated as a disaster area for 2001 or 2002, additional LAP eligibility criteria must be met for each year. A county must have suffered at least a 40% grazing loss for three or more consecutive months in a calendar year in order to be eligible for that year. A county may meet eligibility requirements for both 2001 and 2002; however, a producer in that county may receive a LAP payment for only one of the years.

Although LAP is a grazing loss program, payments are on a per head basis of eligible livestock, including beef and dairy cattle, buffalo, beefalo, sheep, goats, swine and certain equine animals. A producer must have control of adequate grazing land to support the eligible livestock.

During 2001 or 2002, a livestock producer must have suf-

fered a 40% or greater loss of grazing production for three or more consecutive months due to drought, hot weather, disease, insect infestation, flood, fire, hurricane, earthquake, severe storm or other natural disasters.

"Because funding for LAP is limited, a national factor will apply," said Reese. "This factor will be announced after the sign-up period ends."

The 2003 Act requires that an adjusted gross income limitation apply – a change from previous LAP provisions. A \$40,000 payment limitation also applies to assistance. The total value of all applications will be determined and, if in excess of \$250 million, will be adjusted proportionately.

USDA has developed a web site that provides producers with one convenient location for details on new and existing disaster assistance – <http://disaster.usda.gov>.



JULIA BOYD

Preventable injuries leading cause of death for children under 14

What could be more devastating than losing a child? In the opinion of someone who has lost a child, there isn't anything that comes close to this pain.

Julia Ebert Boyd, McAlester, formerly of Idabel, knows firsthand this pain. She lost her only child, Heather Elaine, 11, on June 5, 2000 in an automobile accident. The pain is compounded by the fact that she lost Heather in what's known as a "preventable injury" accident. Heather didn't have her seatbelt on and was ejected from the vehicle in which she was a passenger.

Julia, who was chosen to be the keynote speaker at the annual Safekids Coalition luncheon in Oklahoma City on July 31, has volunteered her time to speak to civic groups and various agencies in order to raise awareness of preventable injuries, which is the leading cause of death of children under the age of 14.

Julia stresses the importance of support for people who are in the same situation as she is. She commends Stephen Benefield, Managing Officer of CMDC, for the extra efforts he has made to support her. He brought Julia's story and the Safekids Coalition programs to the attention of Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation.

WIC

WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN

Steps to a healthy weight: Family Fun, Food and Fitness

Get off the diet roller coaster and take these five simple steps to whole family health.

BE ACTIVE

Change the "E" word from exercise to enjoyment.

There's no need for expensive health club memberships or fancy exercise equipment. Just get physical for a total of 30 to 60 minutes a day – three brisk 10-minute walks will do the trick. Just do it – see how great you feel. Fun is also the key to family fitness, so:

- Make family time active – head to the park with a ball, or a Frisbee, or a kite.
- Walk around the ball field or school while the kids practice or play a game.
- Plan active vacations – skiing, hiking, biking, swimming or boating.

BE REALISTIC

Make small changes in what you eat.

Breakfast is a tasty time to get a power surge for the day. Look for high-fiber and lower-fat choices:

- Oatmeal, raisins and fat-free milk
- Leftover cheese pizza and orange juice
- Toaster waffles with fruit topping
- Bagel with peanut butter and milk

BE FLEXIBLE

Balance what you eat through the day

Lunches can be lighter when you are going out for a big dinner. Look for easy ways to lower fat intake.

- Share a small fries with a friend
- Go for light mayo on sandwiches
- Add a fruit to your usual fast food
- Choose 1% (low-fat) or less milk

BE ADVENTUROUS

Expand your tastes with 5-a-Day.

Snacks are the smart way to get a jump-start on the five servings of fruits and veggies you need every day.

- Baby carrots and low-fat dip
- Banana and a carton of 1% milk
- Veggie juice and fat-free pretzels
- Canned pineapple and crackers

BE SENSIBLE

Enjoy all foods – just don't overdo it.

Dinnertime is the right time to enjoy moderation and to listen carefully to your signals from your stomach.

- Try eating off smaller size plates
- Start with moderate portion sizes
- Turn off the TV and focus on food
- Eat slowly and chew carefully

Used with permission of Eat Right Montana

MOBILE WELLNESS CENTER SCHEDULE

November 2003

| Date | 10 a.m.-12 noon | 1-3 p.m. |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| November 4 | Wister - Library | Leflore - Store |
| Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention | | |
| November 6 | Antlers - Post Office | Rattan - School |
| Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention | | |
| November 14 | Heavener - IGA Store | Poteau - Choctaw Travel Plaza |
| Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention | | |
| November 19 | Crowder - Choctaw Tribal Center | Crowder - Choctaw Tribal Center |
| Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention | | |
| November 20 | Albany - Post Office | Bennington - Store |
| Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention | | |
| November 25 | Valliant - Farmer's Market | Valliant - Farmer's Market |
| Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention | | |

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

November

| | |
|--------------|--|
| November 3: | Poteau (A-L) 9-2; Stigler 9-2 |
| November 5: | Talihina 9-12 |
| November 7: | Poteau (M-Z) 9-2; Coalgate 9-10:30; Atoka 12-2 |
| November 10: | Broken Bow 9-2 |
| November 13: | Wright City 9-10:30; Hugo 12-2 |
| November 17: | Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 |
| November 19: | Idabel 9-12 |

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 Health Care Center OUTPATIENT PHARMACY

Talihina, Oklahoma

MEDICATION REFILLS

Call 918-567-7000 or toll-free 1-800-349-7026

The automated system will prompt you to press #3 for Pharmacy Orders and then press #2 for refills.

Please leave information on voice mail:

- 1) Name
- 2) Date of Birth and/or Chart #

Please give the name of each medication you are needing to be refilled

Refills may be picked up the next day!

OUTPATIENT PHARMACY HOURS

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DRIVE-THRU HOURS FOR "REFILLS ONLY"

Monday-Friday
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Muskogee's Language Class begins Phase 2

The Choctaw Language Class started in Muskogee on September 11 and is still open to anyone who has had at least the basic Phase 1 or beyond, anyone who wants to brush up on language skills or to advance in Choctaw language. The class starts at 7 p.m. on Thursday for 16 weeks. If interested, show up at the Muskogee Community Center, 111 S. Virginia, Muskogee, Oklahoma.



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 |

November Calendar

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY PROGRAM

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



Chief Gregory E. Pyle joins Choctaw Nation Sr. Miss Nicole Billy, the Broken Bow Dancers and other participants in a Social Dance.



Chief and Pat Pyle enjoy the displays in the newly renovated section of the Choctaw Nation museum.

2003 LABOR DAY Festival



Justin and Ana Williams, Mary Saragosa, and six-month-old Anika Williams.



Carole Ayers begins a new painting at her arts & crafts booth.



Cody Elliott is pickin' and grinnin'.



Choctaw Nation Color Guard leads the Grand Entry.



Princesses join in the Pow Wow Grand Entry.



Stickball games are a favorite of festival-goers.



McKinney Dancers demonstrate the Wedding Dance.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Jennifer and David Barnett.



Michael Noah has a new pal – Smokey the Bear.



Gourd dancers Coleman Jefferson, Matt Jefferson, Presley Byington and Willard Polk.

People You Know



Look who's turning 12

Kelis Betsey is going to be 12 years old on October 30. Kelis is the son of Carri Ferguson of Atoka, Oklahoma. He is the great-grandson of Adam Betsey of Atoka and Annie Betsey of Durant, Oklahoma. Happy birthday and many more to come! "Love you" from your niece, Jolee. May God bless you.



Shirley turns 50

Shirley (Holloway) Raver of Richmond, Indiana will turn 50 on October 25. We want to wish her a very happy birthday. Our father, Arthur E. Holloway, passed away in 1985 but is not forgotten by all who loved him.



Look who's five

Emma turned five years old on July 15 and would like to thank everyone for all of the neat gifts and family who drove all the way from the city for her lake party. Her dad is Mike Hood; grandparents are Richard and Linda Hood; proud aunt, Robin Cairns and Eric. Also attending the party were Boomer and Cloe, Dylan, Ashlee, Tristin, Kaitlyn, Doss, Morgan and Mitch. We love you.



Belated birthday wishes

Belated birthday wishes go out to Chipper Jones who turned five years old on August 5. He is the son of Stephanie Jones of Fort Smith, Arkansas, grandson of Albert Jones of Denver, Colorado and the great-grandson of Joyce Jones of Talihina, Oklahoma and the late Wilburn Jones, Sr. of Moyers, Oklahoma. Chipper has two special aunts, Melissa Jones and Jennifer Jones of Talihina, and two special uncles, Wilburn Jones, Jr. and Darrin Jones of Talihina. His favorite hobbies are playing ball and fishing. We all wish Chipper a happy birthday. May God bless you.



Chelsea turns two

Happy birthday to Chelsea Lakota Roberts who turned two years old on September 21. She would like to say happy birthday to her PaPa and Uncle Kylie Bagby. She is the daughter of Candice Roberts of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Her grandparents are Donald Roberts of Broken Bow and Dianne Thompson of Idabel, Oklahoma. Robert Thompson of Wright City, Oklahoma is her great-grandfather.



Turning 17

Happy birthday to Sonya Hamilton from her grandparents, Billy and Lettie Moore. Sonya turned 17 years old on October 5.



Congratulations!

Philip Wallace Hopkins, 18, celebrated his graduation from Coral Gables Senior High School, Coral Gables, Florida, in June. Philip is the son of the late Phillip Rodney Hopkins of Idabel, an enrollee, and Margaret Subirats-Hopkins of Camaguey, Cuba. His grandparents were enrollees Wallace and Winnie Hopkins, descendants of Thomas Hopkins and enrollee Nova Ward.



Philip begins his undergraduate studies in prelaw this fall semester at the University of Miami. Congratulations, Phil. Your family is very proud of you!

The big 10!

Look who turned the big 10! Birthday wishes go out to Vanessa Jefferson, daughter of Linda and Austin Jefferson. Vanessa attends Battiest School and is the District 2 Runner-Up Little Miss Choctaw Princess. She won the title of America Cover Miss last month and trophies in Most Beautiful, Friendship, and Prettiest Smile. Vanessa would like to thank sponsors Gary Baggs and Councilman Mike Amos for their support. She will be competing in the state finals in Tulsa.



75th anniversary

Congratulations to John B. and Beatrice V. (Sprayberry) Spain of Vivian, Louisiana who will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on October 22. They had five children, Robert Spain, twins Ronald and Donald Spain, Gerldine Spain and Ollie Spain. Gerldine passed away about two years ago. They have several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



John is the son of Granger P. Spain and Lula M. Shelton Spain. His great-grandfather was William Spain. Beatrice is the daughter of Joe and Pearl Sprayberry.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Robert Cantes, Jr. from his mother and relatives. He turned 32 on September 12. Robert is the grandson of the late James and Jonie Fisher. He is the nephew of the late Daniel James Fisher of Atoka. We love you! Happy birthday!

August birthdays

Devan Colbert would like to wish his brother and sister a happy birthday. Quintin turned three years old on August 31 and Neosha turned two years old on August 8. They are the children of Phillip Owens and Le Anne Colbert. Also, happy birthday to Jaron Willis who turned 16 on August 18 and to Levi Battiest, Jr. who turned 16 on August 26.



Happy birthday

Happy belated birthday to Antonio Reyes on June 14 from your wife and girls, B.J., Rai and Daniela. Also, belated wishes for a happy birthday to Miss Leslie Johnson on July 12 from Antonio and B.J. We all love you very much.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday on October 17 to Beatrice Irene "Sister Faith" White-man of Hawthorth, Oklahoma, and to her grandson, Nicholas Jordan Henson, on October 15. Beatrice turned 55 and Jordan celebrated his eleventh. Jordan is the son of Tonia and Daniel Henson.



Congratulations!

Carly Jo Blemmel has been accepted to Haskell Indian Nations University. Good luck in the 2003 fall semester and have loads of fun! I am so proud of you and love you so much, from Kathy.



Happy birthday

Wishes for a happy birthday are sent to Leonard Brokeshoulder of McAlester, Oklahoma with love from Noka and the rest of the Byington and Chavez family.

Masheli turns two

Happy birthday to Masheli Kiara Watson. She turned two years old on September 13. Masheli is the daughter of Renae (Watson) Parker and has one brother, Mason, and one sister, Larissa. Her grandparents are George and Daisy Watson of Watson, Oklahoma. "Happy birthday, baby girl!"



Happy 23rd birthday

Happy 23rd birthday on September 11 to Alice Rodriguez. She is the daughter of George and Daisy Watson of Watson, Oklahoma. We all wish her many, many more years to come.



Happy 35th

Deborah Ilene Moore of Camden, Arkansas will turn 35 on October 15. Her Dad and Mom would like to wish her a very happy birthday.



Look who's four

Sydney Rhea Suthers turns four years old on October 26. Her family wishes her a fun and happy day, Grandpa and Grandma Whitmore of Marion, Iowa; great-grandmother, Wanda (Nelson) Harris, who went to school at the Oklahoma Presbyterian College in Durant; parents, Brian and Amber Suthers; brother, Brock; sister, Ashlyn of Ely, Iowa; Uncle Eric and Aunt Mindy Suthers of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Her great-great-grandfather, George Nelson, full blood Choctaw, clerk and interpreter for the Choctaw Nation for 35 years in McAlester, would have been very proud of her.



Kiley turns nine

Happy ninth birthday on October 5 to Kiley Beaty of Achille, Oklahoma. We love you very much - Mom, Dad, Kaitlyn and all your family.



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.

Horse judging team

The Garvin County, Oklahoma, Senior 4-H horse judging team was named Reserve Champion at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association contest held August 1-9 at the AQHYA World Championship Show in Fort Worth, Texas.



Team members are Keith and Kevin Foraker, pictured, sons of Bobby and Vickie Foraker, Maysville; Skylar York, son of Mike and Della York, Maysville; Kalyn Watkins, daughter of Lynn and Jeanine Watkins, Lindsay. Team coach is Lisa Wells, director of the Purcell Public Library. The assistant coach is Justin McGee of Wayne.

As a team, they placed fourth in Halter Division, first in Performance Division and third in Reasons. Kalyn was the eleventh place High Individual in Halter; Skylar was fourth High Individual in Performance and Kevin was 6th High Individual in Performance; Skylar and Kevin tied for tenth place High Individual in Reasons. In Overall Individual scoring, Kevin and Skylar tied for ninth and Keith placed 13th.

Noah family

Bobby and Alicia Noah would like to wish their babies a happy birthday.



Derek was one year old on August 9 and Kasi Jo turned three on September 11. Derek and Kasi Jo would like to wish their parents a happy birthday, as well. Bobby turned 36 on September 6 and Alicia will be 32 on October 19. Also, happy birthday to Uncle Cecil Wade on August 9 and Aunt Rhonda Loma on September 6.

Natalia turns four

Fred Jennings of Ada, Oklahoma would like to wish his granddaughter, Natalia Jennings of Ada, a happy birthday along with his grandpa. Natalia turned four years old on August 31. She speaks bilingual.



Wanda goes Hollywood

Wanda Byington spent her summer vacation in California, visiting her sister, Janie Bear. She also stopped in Las Vegas, Nevada to visit her brother, Howard Kenieutubbe. She was accompanied by her three daughters and two grandchildren.



Also, happy birthday on August 29 to Leonard Brokeshoulder of McAlester, Oklahoma - love, Noka and the rest of the Byington and Chavez families.

Award winner

Congratulations to Geary L. Watson, Mayor of Red Rock, Oklahoma, co-winner of the Myrtle A. Patterson Healthy Lifestyle Award. The award was presented during the fourth annual American Indian Kidney Conference held in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Diagnosed with Type II diabetes in 1980, he feels an obligation to his community to learn as much as he can about the disease process and pass this knowledge on to others so they can make informed choices regarding their health.

Mr. Watson has also been nominated for Mayor of the Year 2003.

Honor student

Stacy Leigh Cornelius is listed on the President's Honor Roll for the first semester at University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond. Stacy also plays fast pitch softball.



Stacy's brother, Ben, is a student at Hefner Middle School in Oklahoma City's Putnam City School System. He plays baseball and football.

Their parents are Greg and Jonita Cornelius of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Three generations

Three generations of Millerton, Oklahoma residents - Grandmother Renee Williston is holding three-month-old Bradley



Downum and is surrounded by the baby's aunts, Lindsey Williston and Janie Williston, and his mother, Shalisa Downum.

Congratulations on the new generation!

Big catch

Jeremy Whitson, 12, of Calera, Oklahoma has his hands full with the 25-pound flathead catfish he caught on a Berkley Blue Fleck Power Worm while fishing the junior division of the Tackle Box Tournament in Little Mineral.

Jeremy is the grandson of Linda and Ken Taylor of Denison, Texas and the son of Hope Whitson and the late Brian Whitson of Calera.



American Indian Chamber of Commerce gives voice to Indian-owned businesses

The American Indian Chamber of Commerce met September 17 at Three Arrows Restaurant in the Choctaw Nation Inn, Durant, with ten members present. The members discussed goals the group would like to see happen in their chapter of the chamber. One of the goals is to spread the word about the chamber's meetings for Indian-owned businesses to have a voice and representation in business. Another goal is to travel to meeting locations enabling more Choctaws to attend the meetings and join the chamber.

Guest speaker was Keith Yackeyonny, Development Specialist for Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity. Yackeyonny outlined the purpose of OIO's Women's Business Center, a nonprofit organization with 36 years of experience providing economic opportunity and business development services to tribes, communities and individuals. The center offers one-on-one assistance, training courses, workshops, assistance with using the Internet and with tax, legal and insurance matters.

Also discussed was the opportunity Indian-owned businesses have as members to hire other Indian-owned businesses for service or products. As a member, businesses are listed on a directory so a needed service can be looked up and Indian-owned businesses hired first.

The next meeting will be October 15 at the Three Arrows Restaurant in the Choctaw Inn in Durant. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. followed by the meeting at noon.

Fall Foliage Festival

October 25-26, Talihina, Oklahoma
Sponsored by the Talihina Chamber of Commerce
-Featuring-

CHOCTAW NATION Diabetes 5k Run / Walk

Saturday, October 25, 2003

Registration: 9-9:30 a.m.
Victory Baptist Church Parking Lot
5th & Isherwood

5k runners start at 9:45 a.m.
5k walkers start at 9:55 a.m.

Entry fee: \$7

All paid entries will receive a T-shirt
and will be eligible for door prizes.

For more information, please call 1-800-349-7026, ext. 6044

Native American Culture

Presley Byington
Choctaw Nation firefighter and flute maker

Olin Williams
Choctaw Nation Cultural Resources,
telling stories of the old Choctaw ways

Choctaw Youth Dancers
from Smithville, Oklahoma

Choctaw Singers
from Talihina, Oklahoma

Beadwork and leather craftsmen

Come and enjoy the mountains when
the beautiful fall season is at its best!



Trick-or-Treating Safety Tips

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

- Always go trick-or-treating with an adult
- Carry a flashlight
- Stay in familiar neighborhoods
- Don't cut across yards or driveways
- Approach only houses that are lit
- Never enter a stranger's house or car for a treat
- Stay in a group, walk slowly and communicate where you are going
- Wear clothing with reflective markings or tape
- Treating your kids to a spooky Halloween dinner will make them less likely to eat the candy they collect before you have a chance to check it for them
- No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an adult at home
- Never consume unwrapped food items or open beverages that may be offered
- Follow traffic signals and rules of the road
- Throw out candy or treats that are homemade
- Alternatives to trick-or-treating - attend a local community or church event

Nursery News

Devan Aldyn Colbert

Devan Aldyn Colbert was born on February 13, 2003 at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He weighed 9 pounds, 8 ounces. Proud parents are Phillip Owens and Le Anne Colbert of Oklahoma City. His grandparents are Garry Colbert and Theresa Colbert of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. Great-grandmothers are Mary Jefferson of Broken Bow and Christine Ludlow of Smithville, Oklahoma.



Dyani Akiha McIntosh

Derrick and Tyreese McIntosh of District Heights, Maryland are blessed to announce the arrival of their daughter, Dyani Akiha McIntosh, born at 9:11 a.m. August 5, 2003 in George Washington University Hospital. She weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Grandparents are Mary A. McIntosh and the late Herbert "Heavy Duty" McIntosh of McAlester, Oklahoma. Her great-grandparents include original enrollee Herbert McIntosh and great-great-grandparent is Amos McIntosh.



Adeline Elizabeth Hahklotubbe

Adeline Elizabeth Hahklotubbe was born April 23, 2003 in Walnut Creek, California to David and Juliet Hahklotubbe of Napa, California.

Adeline is named after her great-great-grandmother who walked the Trail of Tears.



Alex Joseph Thompson

Ronnie and Bobbie Jo Thompson of Hugo, Oklahoma would like to announce the birth of their son, Alex Joseph Thompson. Alex was born at 7:41 p.m. January 19, 2003 at Tulsa Regional Medical Center. He weighed 9 pounds. His loving family include his uncles, Eddie Thompson of Hugo and Nicholas and Scott Harlin of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, and aunts, Janice Finch, Geneva Songer and Victoria and Amanda Harlin, all of Hugo. Grandparents are Joseph Thompson and the late Christine Thompson of Hugo, Janice Cullum of Paris, Texas, and Robert Harlin of Hugo.



Joseph Thomas Dobson

Jason and Robyn Dobson of Colorado Springs are new parents. Joseph Thomas Dobson was born on Father's Day, June 15, 2003. He weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 21 inches long. Grandparents are Don and Betty Dobson of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma and Jim and Leslie Bennett of Claremore, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Thomas D. and Nora Mae Dobson of Inola, Oklahoma, the late Ben and Nora Mae Taylor, Lena and the late Dick Oliver of Claremore and the late Lucile and Gail Bennett of Bushyhead. Joseph is the first grandchild of both sides of the family.



Lawson Paul Wilkins

Paul and Susan (Camp) Wilkins of Danville, Arkansas are proud to announce the arrival of their son, Lawson Paul Wilkins. He was born at 6:20 p.m. on May 7, 2003, weighing 8 pounds, 15 ounces and measuring 21 inches long. Lawson made his way into the world at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Russellville, Arkansas.

Proud grandparents are Joel A. Camp of Achille, Oklahoma, Kathy Hanson of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas and Roy and Faye Wilkins of Blue Ball, Arkansas.



Child and adult care food program

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Day Care Program announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). All participants in attendance are served meals, at no extra charge to the parents and without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. In accordance with federal law and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This statement applies to the center(s) listed: Choctaw Nation Day Care - Durant, Choctaw Nation Child Development Centers - Talihina, Bennington, Coalgate and Stigler.

Spotted Feather pursuing an acting career



Edward Spotted Feather of Grants, New Mexico celebrated his 32nd birthday on September 3. He and his family, Eleanor, Lena and Sarah, would like to express their gratitude for the cards Chief Pyle sent and for the ongoing support.

Edward is currently pursuing an acting career and has signed a contract with the Mannequin Agency in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He has recently been honored to play a bit part in a principal role with Bonicio Del Toro in "21 Grams."

Braxton Dawes Patton

Braxton Dawes Patton was born at 7:03 p.m. July 2, 2003 at Carl Albert Hospital in Ada, Oklahoma. He weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long. Braxton's parents are Michael Patton and Julie Robertson of Bowlegs, Oklahoma and big brothers are McKinley Jones of Bowlegs and Mikey Patton of Wewoka, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Randy and Marilyn Robertson of Bowlegs and Eugene Patton and JoAnn Miller of Wewoka. His great-grandmother is Helen Coots of Bowlegs.



Hunter Clayton Gibson

Gary and Tina Gibson of Bokoshe, Oklahoma are proud to announce the birth of their son, Hunter Clayton, born June 23, 2003 at EOMC in Poteau, Oklahoma. Hunter weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19.75 inches long. He was welcomed by his sisters, Ashley and Shawnee, and big brother, Kelsey. Grandparents are Donnie and Karen Parnell of Watson, Oklahoma, Sharon Williams of Mena, Arkansas, Susan Gibson of Denison, Texas and DeWayne and Ann Merrell of Ben Lomond, Arkansas.



Craig Stephen Brown

Craig Stephen Brown was born July 23, 2003 at Deaconess Hospital in Oklahoma City to Courtney Brown and Obidio Vasquez. Craig weighed 9 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21.5 inches long. Proud grandparents are Francis and Lucretia Brown of Oklahoma City. He has two uncles, Steve Moore of Marlton, New Jersey and Tim Bear of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and a special cousin, Elizabeth.



Kylee Grace Foster

Kylee Grace Foster was born at 7:38 a.m. August 3, 2003 in Duncan Regional Hospital, Duncan, Oklahoma, to proud parents Kyle and Heather Foster. Kylee weighed 8 pounds, 15.5 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Grandparents are Bobby and Shannon Foster of Rush Springs, Oklahoma and LaDonna Bingham of Kingston, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Curtis and Peggy Scruggs and Joe and Nellie Davis of Rush Springs, R.B. and Faye Riddles of Marlow, Oklahoma and the late Betty Foster.

She was welcomed home by a sister, Erika, and two brothers, Brad and Chad.

Blaine Malachi Dale Standridge

Blaine Malachi Dale Standridge was born June 24, 2003. He weighed 8 pounds and was 20 inches long. Proud parents, Crystal Harley and Ron Standridge, and sisters, Chelsey and Ronica Standridge, are all of Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

We would also like to wish little sister Ronica a happy fourth birthday on September 20, 2003.



Skylar Noel Scott

Making an entrance to the Choctaw tribe is Skylar Noel Scott, born December 20, 2002 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Skylar is the daughter of Erik and Jennifer Scott of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. She is also fortunate to be the great-granddaughter of Victor and Ruth Porter of Lawton, Oklahoma.



CHOCTAW VETERANS ASSOCIATION POW WOW

NOVEMBER 8, 2003

Talihina School Gym, Talihina, Oklahoma

All Veterans Welcome

Contact: Richard Adams:
800-522-6170, ext. 2382 or
Eugene Folsom: 214-941-4702.

For vendor info -
Harry or Carol James: 918-567-2539
\$25 set-up

Bring your own tables & chairs
Public Invited ** No Admission
Arts & Crafts ** Food Concession
All Princesses, Clubs and Drums Welcome
Bring Pow Wow Chairs

Head Staff

Host Drum: Bear Claw, Dallas, Texas
MC: Eugene Folsom, Mississippi Choctaw, Dallas, Texas
Head Gourd Dancer: Frank Watson, Choctaw, Durant, Oklahoma
Head Man Dancer: Gaylon Hubbard, Prairie Band Potawatomie, Topeka Kansas
Head Lady Dancer: Ann Geimausaddle, Comanche, Lawton, Oklahoma
Honor Guard: Choctaw Nation Honor Guard
Arena Director: Alva Roughface, Ponca, Hobart, Oklahoma

Not responsible for theft/accidents.
Firearms, alcohol, drugs prohibited.

Gourd Dance
2-5 p.m.
Supper
5-6 p.m.
Gourd Dance
6-7 p.m.
Grand Entry
& Inter-Tribal
7-11 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Greda Jo McIntyre

Greda Jo McIntyre, 34, passed away Monday, August 25, 2003 in Clayton, Oklahoma. She was born October 8, 1968 in Midwest City, Oklahoma to Buster and Latresia McDaniel. She married Victor McIntyre on September 25, 1998 in Clayton, Oklahoma.

Greda Jo was a lifelong resident of the Clayton area and was employed by the Choctaw Nation as a WIC professional. She was a member of the New Hope Harvest Church of Clayton.

Survivors include her husband, Victor McIntyre of the home; two sons, Bradley Gene Hutson and Lane Ray McIntyre, both of the home; her parents, Buster and Latresia McDaniel of Nashoba, Oklahoma; a brother, Shannon McDaniel of Durant, Oklahoma; a sister, Trina Thompson of Hugo, Oklahoma; her mother- and father-in-law, Earnest and Ruth McIntyre of Paris, Texas, and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Earl S. "Mac" McMannis

Earl S. "Mac" McMannis, 80, passed away on July 22, 2003. He was born August 24, 1922.

He was a self-made man who retired after 30 years of service at Coastal States Petrol Chemical Co. where he was known as the "green grizzly bear." He was previously employed at Sinclair Refineries. He served his country in the U.S. Army.

He loved the land. Staying busy during his "retirement," he carried this love into farming and ranching.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Altie Faye; son, Earl McMannis, Jr., and daughter, the Rev. Sondra von Gyllenband, both of Austin, Texas; grandchildren, Richard Thomas of Frisco, Texas, Earl Pom McMannis, Judith Ann McMannis, and Sandy Fay McMannis, all of Austin, and Brandon Crespo McMannis of Puerto Rico; four great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and his spoiled, beloved Tinker Bell.



Rosley "Goldie" Lashbrook

Rosley "Goldie" Lashbrook, 64, of Durant, Oklahoma passed away Tuesday, September 2, 2003. She was born Tuesday, February 21, 1939 in Atoka, Oklahoma to Tom and Ruby (Cole) McCarty. She was a homemaker and a member of the Baptist faith.

She was preceded in death by her parents and stepmother, Abbie McCarty.

Survivors include her sons, Jim Thomas Ray Bledsoe of Caddo, Oklahoma and Robert Lee Broome of Odessa, Texas; daughters, Shirley Ann Neal of Durant and Barbara Ann Wilson of Kettle Falls, Washington; brother, Freddy McCarty of Cartwright, Oklahoma; sisters, Ella Joy Bledsoe of Durant, Emily George of Caddo, Oklahoma and Clara A. Jamison of Clayton, Oklahoma; 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Mary Noahubi

Mary Noahubi, 76, of Bethel, Oklahoma passed away Tuesday, July 1, 2003 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was born December 1, 1926, the daughter of Tecumseh and Fannie (Crosby) Wade. Mary was a lifelong resident of McCurtain County.

She was a member of the Kulli Chito Presbyterian Church and an active member in the women's group. She enjoyed quilting and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Battiest Noahubi on February 8, 2001, and her parents.

Survivors include her sons, Alton Noahubi, Melvin Noahubi and Nolan Noahubi, all of Bethel, and Norvell Noahubi of Hartshorne, Oklahoma; daughters, Pauline McGee and Geraldine Jessie, both of Dallas, Texas, Hylda Tinajero and Selena Martinez, both of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, Loretta Hunt of Idabel, Oklahoma and Asterline Gonzales of Gonzales, Texas; 43 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Betty Jo Denton

Betty Jo Denton passed away April 26, 2003. She was born July 8, 1931 in Gotebo, Oklahoma. Betty was a longtime resident of Oklahoma City. She retired from the Putnam City School system in 1989, where she was serving as a guidance counselor. Betty had also served as a teacher for a total of 35 years in education.

She touched many lives with her wonderful sense of humor and zest for life. She was a member of Mayfair Baptist Church, Oklahoma City. She was a member of the Alpha Delta Kappa (Alpha Zeta) International Honorary Sorority for women educators. She was a longtime member of Eastern Star. Beloved by many other friends, relatives and former students, she will be missed by all.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ben Jenkins.

Survivors include her husband, Harvey D. Denton; daughter, Jonita Cornelius; mother, Jettie Jenkins; brother, Archie Jenkins, and wife, Reta; nephew, Clayton Jenkins, and wife, Robbie; niece, Regenia, and husband, the Rev. Rick Rogers; four great-nieces and one great-nephew.

Gary Anderson Hamburg

Gary Anderson Hamburg, 52, of McAlester, Oklahoma passed away Saturday, July 5, 2003 at Oklahoma Heart Hospital in Oklahoma City. He was born December 21, 1950 in Talihina, Oklahoma, the son of Jirl and Lurline (Anderson) Hamburg.

Gary graduated from McAlester High School in 1969 and married Pamela Southern on July 25, 1969 in McAlester.

He worked as a diesel mechanic until he went to college at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, where he received his bachelor's degree in accounting and computer science in 1981. He worked for First Data Management in Oklahoma City.

He later moved to Atlanta, Georgia and worked for First Financial Corporation until 1997 when he retired and moved to Lake Texoma. He enjoyed his retirement there until 2000 and moved back to McAlester. He was an avid boater and woodworker and loved to restore furniture.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Norton and Lillie Potts Anderson of Buffalo Valley, Oklahoma and William Henry and Lizzie Hamburg of Mississippi, and his father-in-law, J.S. Southern.

Survivors include his wife, Pamela Hamburg of the home; a son, Gary Ryan Hamburg of the home; daughter and son-in-law, Kristin and Ryan Fleming of McAlester; five grandchildren, Tyler Fleming, Kaylee Fleming, Brayden Fleming, Ansley Fleming and Jayse Fleming, all of McAlester; a brother and sister-in-law, Rod and Diane Hamburg of McAlester; parents, Jirl and Lurline Hamburg of McAlester; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Patricia and Lewis Nobles of Adamson, Oklahoma and Linda and Dick Fry of Hartshorne, Oklahoma; mother-in-law, Ruth Southern of McAlester, and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.



Beatrice L. Anderson

Beatrice L. Anderson, 76, of Oklahoma City, formerly of McAlester, Oklahoma, passed away Friday, September 19, 2003 at Oklahoma City. She was born March 19, 1927 in Damon, Oklahoma to Kenneth, Sr. and Rena Mae Harvey Pate.

She lived most of her life in the Damon/Buffalo Valley area. She married Ellis "Cherokee" Anderson on July 10, 1953 in McAlester. She attended the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, and was a retired LPN.

Mrs. Anderson enjoyed her family, cooking, fishing, sewing, quilting, and was a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ellis "Cherokee" Anderson; parents; two grandchildren, Jon and Lani Anderson; one brother, Johnny Pate, Sr., and one sister, Lavada Phipps.

Survivors include three sons and daughters-in-law, Ellis, Jr. and Darlene Anderson of Claremore, Oklahoma, Billy and Debra Anderson of Mesquite, Texas and James Anderson of Oklahoma City; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Patricia and Hubert Crews of Claremore, Gloria and Duane Bagley of Norman, Jackie L. Meyer of Norman and Rita and Randy Attebury of Claremore; 16 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; one sister and brother-in-law, Lahoma and Delbert Hotubbee of Tuskahoma; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Kenneth Pate, Jr. of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Jack and Lucy Pate of Talihina, Oklahoma and Robert, Sr. and Terry Pate of McAlester, Oklahoma, and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Betty (Whitfield) Vedder

Betty (Whitfield) Vedder passed away August 30, 2003 at Longview Regional Hospital in Longview, Texas. She was born Phoebe Frances Whitfield on May 23, 1915 near Valliant, Oklahoma, the daughter of Choctaw original enrollee Ida Austin and John Whitfield. She was the great-great-granddaughter of District Chief Thomas LeFlore.

She attended Wheelock Academy and Valliant Schools. She was a nursing student at Vanderbilt University and received a degree in education from Oklahoma Presbyterian College. She started her teaching career in Oklahoma and soon moved to Fresno, California, teaching for 25 years in the California public schools. She returned to Oklahoma in the 1980s and enjoyed her involvement with the Choctaw Senior Citizens Center. Always a woman of strong faith, she was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Idabel, Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Sam Whitfield and Guy Whitfield, and two sisters, Johnnie Mae Portman and Sue Euston.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Sandra Moore Riley and John Riley of Gilmer, Texas; two sisters and brother-in-law, Dell Marie Bates of Gilmer and Mary and Mark Eaton of Las Cruces, New Mexico; brother and sister-in-law, Gene and Jeannie Whitfield of Weatherford, Oklahoma; grandson, John Whitfield Riley of Phoenix, Arizona; granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Margaret and Sanjay Santhanam of Greenwich, Connecticut; three great-grandchildren, Nashoba, Meghana and Emily Santhanam of Connecticut, and many nieces and nephews.

Simon D. Belvin

The Rev. Simon D. Belvin, 91, of Boswell, Oklahoma passed away August 27, 2003 in Hugo, Oklahoma. He was born June 4, 1912 in Boswell, the son of Soleman Belvin and Virgie (Frazier) Belvin.

He lived all of his life in the Boswell area. A minister of the Gospel, he was a member of Goodsprings Presbyterian Church, Boswell.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Edna Belvin on September 28, 1995; son, Ernie Belvin; brother, Steven Belvin, and sister, Lillie Pierce.

Survivors include one son, Danny Belvin of Boswell; one daughter, Teresa Jacob of Boswell; one sister, Sarah Belvin of Boswell; two grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Julie Anna Cates

Julie Anna Cates, 45, of Kingston, Oklahoma passed away July 27, 2003 in a Dallas hospital. She was born on July 24, 1958 in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Julie was raised in Dickson, Oklahoma on a small farm. She graduated from Dickson High School in 1976 and then attended Southeastern University in Durant.

On May 26, 1978, she married Terry Gable at the First Baptist Church in Dickson. They remained married until 2002. In July 1979, they moved to Valdez, Alaska, where she worked for the Alyeska Pipeline Terminal at the Port of Valdez. Her free spirit loved Alaskan life with the wild and free frontier, which went along with her love of nature and animals. She loved fishing for salmon and halibut, playing softball in the summertime, boating, canning fish and game, and making moose jerky; but her love for her family and the special children brought her back to Kingston.

She was the great-granddaughter of Choctaw original enrollee Margaret Mahalia Cochanauer.

She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Gladys Carlson of Bokchito, Oklahoma.

Survivors include a son, Greg Graham of Richardson, Texas; father, James E. Cates of Ardmore; mother, Patricia L. Cates of Ardmore; two brothers, Michael Cates of San Francisco, California and Chris Cates of Ardmore; three sisters, Toni Hignight of Kingston, Teresa Carpenter of Lone Grove, Oklahoma and Laura Pack of Ardmore; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, great-niece and great-nephews whom she cherished deeply.



Victor Lee McIntyre

Victor Lee McIntyre passed away August 25, 2003. From the day he was born, December 22, 1959, Victor was a ray of sunshine. He was a good friend, a special son to his mother, a wonderful big brother to his sisters, and a happy "Uncle Buck" to his nieces and nephew.

Victor finished high school in Gallup, New Mexico and received his BS degree in psychology and counseling from San Diego State and the University of San Diego.

He returned to Gallup where he served as the Victim Impact Coordinator, helping battered families in Gallup and McKinley County. He distinguished himself as a counselor to the families and youth. He was working "as hard as he could" to finish his master's degree and PhD at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

Victor was struck down by diabetes, a curse to so many Native Americans. He loved being Choctaw. He loved all sports, both as a participant and a spectator. He did random acts of kindness daily for everyone who came in contact with him.

"To live in the hearts of those left behind is not to die. You will always be with us, Victor."



Ed Strickland

The Rev. Ed Strickland, 69, of Caddo, Oklahoma passed away August 15, 2003 in Durant, Oklahoma. He was born June 27, 1934 to Choctaw original enrollee David E. Strickland and Sarah Elizabeth (Childs) Strickland.

Bro. Ed was a longtime resident of Caddo. He married Joyce Marie White on November 3, 1960. He was a minister of the Gospel and his favorite pastimes were preaching, attending camp meetings and watching his grandchildren play ball.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers and sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce of the home; four daughters, Kathy Hurst and husband, Junior, of Caddo, Brenda Gabbart and husband, Billy, of Caddo, Donna Moses and husband, Kent, of the home and Patty Smith and husband, John, of Elk Hart, Texas; three sons, David and wife, Dee-Ann, of Caddo, Danny of Houston, Texas and Don and wife, Debra, of Biard, Texas; 13 grandchildren, Amanda and Matthew Gabbart, Gary and Heather Hurst, Ashley Strickland, and Nicholas Strickland, all of Caddo, Andrew Strickland of Durant, Valencia Strickland of Woodville, Texas, Justin, Michael and Chasidy Smith of Elk Hart, and Tyler and Briann Strickland of Biard.

Bro. Ed was well loved by his family and friends and he will be greatly missed. Our loss is Heaven's gain.



Mamie Katherine (Billey) Machnicz

Mamie Katherine (Billey) Machnicz, 66, passed away June 13, 2003 at her home in Del City, Oklahoma.

She was born July 22, 1936 in Bennington, Oklahoma, the daughter of Pauline (Nance) and Carl Billey and the granddaughter of Lesa (Phillips) and Dawson Billey. Mamie was one-half blood Choctaw Indian and very proud of the Chahta Nation.

She and her family moved to California in 1943 and she later attended and graduated from Chowchilla Union

High School in 1955. Mamie and John J. Machnicz were united in marriage on June 18, 1955 in Nevada. Her husband was a career military man in the U.S. Air Force. During their service, Mamie lived in several places including Tokyo, Japan.

She was employed at the Child Study Center at Children's Hospital as a Respite Aide and as a teacher for special needs children. Mamie was an active member of the St. Paul Apostle Catholic Church in Del City, where she served as Children's Choir Director, Director of Religious Education Department and member of the ladies group.

Survivors include her father, Carl Billey; brother, Howard Billey; sister, Linda Billey-Sevedge; sons, John and Jim; daughters, Robyn and Regina; sons-in-law, Randy Nutt and Michael Lewandowski; daughters-in-law, Teresa and Quaylin; grandchildren, Ryan, Rachel, Nicki, Amy, Senoa and Roman.

Mother, your love will always be cherished among all of us.



Gertrude Cecil Sweany

Longtime Grady and Stephens County, Oklahoma resident Gertrude Cecil Sweany, 92, passed away Monday, July 28, 2003 at Duncan Regional Hospital. She was born November 6, 1910 to Joe E. and Carrie (Sperling) Foreman in Elgin, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Sweany was a homemaker and an antique dealer. She enjoyed her dolls, antique collecting, going to auctions and she never missed a garage sale.

On December 14, 1929, she married Henry Joshua Sweany in Grady County. He preceded her in death on November 12, 1993. She was also preceded in death by her parents and a daughter, Loretta Garrison.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Darrel and June Sweany of Marlow, Oklahoma; two daughters and sons-in-law, Rosemary and Dennis Howard of Urbana, Missouri and Norma and Cecil Winberry of Poplar Bluff, Missouri; eleven grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; 33 great-great-grandchildren, and a sister, Ruth Helen Ray of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Raymond Lewis Landreth

Raymond Lewis Landreth, 62, of Carlsbad, New Mexico passed away September 18, 2003 at Carlsbad Medical Center. He was born December 15, 1940 in Ada, Oklahoma.

As a youth, Ray overcame a birth disability and went on to ride a bike with casts on both legs and to letter in baseball. He graduated as valedictorian from Fitzhugh High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from East Central University in Ada. He earned a master's degree from the University of Missouri at Rolla.

Following graduation, he moved to Carlsbad and on December 24, 1965, he married Patricia Fincher at Carlsbad Bible Church. He taught mathematics and coached baseball, football, and wrestling at Carlsbad Mid High and Carlsbad Senior High Schools for 32 years. He also taught mathematics part-time at New Mexico State University-Carlsbad for 18 years. He was always willing to help any ballplayer with academics and, over the years, he had coached many successful players who went on to play in college or professionally. He retired from teaching in 1996 but continued coaching baseball part-time each spring through May of 2003. He was an avid bow hunter and enjoyed camping and hunting. Mr. Landreth was a member of Carlsbad First Baptist Church and the Carlsbad Elks Lodge.

He was loved and cherished by many and his love for baseball was exceeded only by the love he had for his family.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Alice Hallum Landreth in 1991; sister, Betty Lou Landreth in 1998, and his father, Vernon Ezell Landreth in 1999.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia Landreth of the home; sons, Tommy Landreth and wife, Tina, and William Landreth, all of Carlsbad; daughter, Sherri Walker and husband, David, of Carlsbad; two grandsons, Nick Villa-Walker and Fisher Walker of Carlsbad; brothers, David Landreth and wife, Mary, and son, Charlie, of Carlsbad, and Vernon Landreth and wife, Jo, and son, Steve Landreth, all of Norman, Oklahoma, and sons, Ricky and Robert Landreth of Texas.

Joy Elaine Derby

Joy Elaine Woodman Derby, 49, of Arnold, California passed away August 15, 2003 at her home. She was born September 7, 1953.

A native of Torrance, California, Mrs. Derby lived in Arnold for 20 years. She was a homemaker and a member of Foursquare Cornerstone Church of Arnold.

Survivors include her husband, Richard Derby of Arnold; children, Wendy Brown and Brenda Wilson, both of Arnold, George Derby of Forest Grove, Oregon, and Jason Derby of Georgia; mother, Aline Roberts of Ringold, Oklahoma; brothers, Doug Woodman, Mark Woodman, Rick Woodman and Timothy Woodman, all of Modesto, California; grandmother, Ruth Carlton of Modesto, and ten grandchildren.