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September 2003 Issue

Future is bright for Choctaw Nation



Chief Gregory E. Pyle repeats the oath of office to Chief Justice James Wolfe.

Choctaw royalty



The 2003-04 Choctaw Nation Princesses were crowned Saturday, August 30 during the annual Labor Day Festival.

Beginning their reign are Morgan Steve of Durant as Little Miss Choctaw Nation; Dayla Amos of Broken Bow as Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation and Nicole Billy of Broken Bow as Sr. Miss Choctaw Nation.

See Page 9 for photos of the contestants

Reunion planned for 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, closing with the school's annual gospel singing that night.

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.

Homebuyer Education Workshops are 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 pro-

cess and credit issues.

Classes will be held in the followin

Classes will be held in the following locations:

Sept. 15 Oklahoma City

Sept. 23 Poteau

Sept. 25 Coalgate

Oct. 7

Oct. 7

Durant

Oct. 9

Antlers

Sept. 30 Stigler

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 cligible to purchase a pay modular home.

find out if you are eligible to purchase a new modular home.

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

Inauguration highlights festival

After taking the oath of office on Labor Day, Chief Gregory E. Pyle stepped to center stage to deliver the 2003 State of the Nation Address. Assistant Chief Mike Bailey introduced Chief Pyle as a man who "has a heart for the old as well as the young, making programs available to assist people of all ages." Assistant Chief Bailey also said to the crowd, "You chose to put him back in office without him drawing an opponent. This was an historic event, the first time that a Choctaw Chief's race did not have an opponent."

Chief Pyle spoke somberly of the actions of Native Americans during war times. "The United States as a powerful country has tremendous responsibility throughout the world. Many of our Choctaw men and women have volunteered in the military. This century, Choctaws have volunteered in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf and now Iraq. In fact, the Native Americans have a higher ratio per capita of volunteer participation than any other race of people.

"A young Choctaw man, Jarod Dennis of Antlers, was killed in action this past April while serving in Afghanistan in the War in Iraq. I ask that we pause for a moment of silence to show honor and respect to this brave soldier."

Chief Pyle told everyone of the Choctaw Care Program that was initiated in March. "We asked people who had friends and relatives over in Iraq and surrounding support areas to give us names and addresses. The Choctaw Nation, with the aid and assistance of many donations, sent these soldiers items they needed but could not obtain while in the field."



Beginning new terms are Councilpersons Bob Pate, Perry Thompson, Kenny Bryant, Mike Amos, Harrington "Hap" Ward and Charlotte Jackson.

The care packages contained snacks, socks, gloves, lotions, wet wipes, eye drops and many other things that are taken for granted in the United States. A great number of these soldiers mailed cards and letters to the tribe to say thank you for the gifts, imparting a deep gratitude for remembering them while they are on active duty.

Each year, the Choctaw Nation has a Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th that pays tribute to all who have served. Approximately 1,500 veterans attended the ceremony last year. Chief Pyle asked that all veterans who were in the audience at the Labor Day event to stand and be recognized.

The economic improvement of the Choctaw Nation was highlighted in Chief Pyle's speech. "In 1971, 100% of the services were funded from the federal government. Today, the Choctaw Nation's total budgets are 80% funded by revenues from tribal businesses. These businesses support the Labor Day Festival, the language program, education program and many other services that are not available through federal grants." Tribal businesses include travel plazas located across the ten and one-half counties. Three new ones opened in the past 12 months at Stringtown, Atoka and Poteau. When the renovated store at Heavener opens, the tribe will have 14 travel plazas. Gaming, CMSE, CMDC and Choctaw Archiving are other tribal businesses.

Health services have always been a priority for Chief Pyle. He announced that two new clinics were planned – one in Stigler and one in Idabel. "The clinic in Idabel will be about four times the size of the other clinics and may have as many as 80 on staff," said Chief Pyle.

"Jones Academy is one example of how the tribe is progressing with education programs," said Chief Pyle. "We

want the very best for the students. This year, the first and second grades are being taught on campus. In six years, all 12 grades will be taught at Jones Academy. This is important to the children. They must have the right tools for learning and the right support for their education. I appreciate the Tribal Council for approving the funding of the oncampus classes."

Chief Pyle told of the cultural importance of sharing the Choctaw language. "Many of our mothers, fathers and grandparents went to boarding schools and were severely punished for speaking anything other than English. Now, we have language classes that are totally funded by the Choctaw Nation. Classes are on the Internet, in 42 live classrooms in areas across the United States and in schools, colleges and universities as accredited courses."

"We have a great and bright future ahead of us," said the Chief.

During the August Regular

Session of the Choctaw Tribal

Council, Language Teacher Cer-

tificates were presented to Etta Johnson of Ardmore, Deloris

Samuels of Bethel and Ruth

Hancock of Ada. These teachers are now approved to conduct classes in the Choctaw lan-

Budget allocations, modifications and grant applications

were approved for many tribal programs, including Indian

Child Welfare, Family Preser-

vation, Upward Bound, Voca-

tional Rehabilitation, Food

Distribution, WIC, LIHEAP

Approval was given to fund

the next year's Higher Education

Scholarships with \$4 million

from the gaming funds and mo-

guage.

and EDH.

Tribal Council certifies Choctaw language teachers



Council Speaker Kenny Bryant, Councilman Mike Amos, Deloris Samuels, Etta Johnson, Councilman Ted Dosh, Ruth Hancock, Councilman James Frazier, and Richard Adams of the Choctaw Language Department.

Book signing set for "The Choctaw of Oklahoma"



Ordering information on Page 8

Chief Gregory E. Pyle invites everyone to celebrate the debut of "The Choctaw of Oklahoma," an historic account of the Choctaw Nation.

A book signing with author Dr. Jim Milligan is planned for 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, October 2, at the Choctaw Inn, Hwy. 75 South in Durant.

The Choctaw Nation and Dr. Milligan have spent four years compiling the information for the commissioned and copyrighted history book. "The Choctaw of Oklahoma" is full of information, portraying the sturggles and victories of the Choctaw people. Dr. Milligan covers many centuries of Choctaw history by bringing us to the present and stating goals for the future.

Interest rates are lower

tor fuel tax funds.

The Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association offers small business, home, home improvement and agriculture loans. The current interest rate is

To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the ten and one-half county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recog-

nized tribe.
For more information, contact
Susan Edwards at 580-924-8280
or toll-free 1-800-522-6170.

Letters

Family and Tribe's support motivates student to succeed

Dear Chief Pyle,

I am writing this letter as a proud member of the Choctaw Nation and a recent college graduate. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Choctaw Nation Higher Education Department scholarship fund for granting me the financial assistance necessary to complete my undergraduate degree at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Thanks to your generous support I completed my bachelor's degree this spring in the field of broadcast communications with a minor in marketing. I am now employed with a large marketing firm here in the Tampa/St. Petersburg area of West Cen-

It goes without saying that completing four years of college requires an enormous amount of emotional, spiritual and financial support. I am most fortunate to have received all of that from my family and the Choctaw Nation. Your scholarship, cards and letters of encouragement have kept me motivated to succeed in college and to try to make my family and Tribe proud of my accomplishments. I am starting my new career in marketing as a direct result of your support and encouragement. Words cannot express my gratitude.

I read the BISHINIK when I am home and realize that the incredible generosity of the Choctaw Nation truly makes a difference in the lives of members of the Tribe. I feel so fortunate to have been the recipient of the Choctaw college scholarship and hope that other young people will consider applying and continuing their education.

Thank you for having faith in me and investing in my future. Amanda "Mandy" Stone

Largo, Florida

Scholarship aids in education

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My name is Kay Christine Luetkemeyer. I want to express my gratitude for receiving the Choctaw Nation Scholarship for the past four years. I have now graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a B.S. in Elementary Education.

I wanted to thank you on behalf of my parents, Bob and Vermell Luetkemeyer; my grandparents, W.O. and Doris V. Phelps Maxey, and my great-grandmother, Lola E. Ryan Phelps Marlow.

Kay Christine Luetkemeyer Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Seeking information

Dear Editor,

I am searching for any information about Carl Earl Hill or family. Please call Sally Marie Hill (Rhea), 469-633-0509; e-mail shr@ppoone.com, or write 9425 Rolater Rd #1515, Frisco, TX 75035.

Caddo rodeo a success

Dear Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey,

The Caddo Round Up Club would like to thank you for your donations to our rodeo and for donating the queen saddle. With your help, our rodeo was a success.

Members of the Caddo Round Up Club

California Choctaw receives advanced nursing degree

Dear Mr. Wade,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Choctaw Nation, as well as your office, for the financial assistance which has been provided to me as I worked to achieve my master's degree in nursing. The Higher Education Office has been very helpful in the past years in mailing reminders for paperwork due dates and providing assistance in completing all the necessary forms. Your staff has been very courteous and helpful on the few occasions I needed to obtain help on the telephone.

There is no doubt that the tuition assistance has lightened my load as I studied for my advanced nursing degree. I invite you to share in the joy of my new degree, as I graduated June 14, 2003.

> Lynne Roy, RN, MSN Redlands, California

Searching for paternal relatives

Dear Editor,

I am trying to find out if I have any relatives. My name is Willie Loman Borden. My father was William Leroy Loman. My mother was Lois Faye Loman. My father told me that I had some half-sisters in Oklahoma. I would love to find out more about my father's family.

> Willie Borden 15 E. Washington Plaza Apts. #311 McAlester, OK 74501 918-423-1917

Thank you

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

I want to tell you how very grateful I am for the medical equipment you provided me with. Rebecca J. Coon

Gregory E. Pyle

Chief

Mike Bailey Assistant Chief

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If you are receiving more than one BISHINIK at your home or if your address needs changed, we would appreciate hearing from you. The BISHINIK is a nonprofit publication of the Choctaw Nation. Cir-

culation is monthly.

BISHINIK® 2003

Family extends heartfelt gratitude

Dear Chief Pyle and Choctaw Nation, ney failure on December 18, 2002. The

Derek Jones was diagnosed with kidfamily was told that it may take up to two years before a donor would be found. While waiting for a donor, Derek was being treated through home dialysis.

On July 1, 2003, a donor was found and Derek received his kidney transplant within six months of his diagnosis. The kidney transplant went well with minor complications. Derek is at home enjoying time with his family and friends. He will continue to travel once a week to Oklahoma City Children's Hospital.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you for all the heart-warming calls, cards, beautiful flowers, food and especially, prayers, and ask for continuing prayers. A special thank you to Russell Sossamon and the Housing Authority staff for all of their support with providing a van to transport Derek.

Our appreciation is far greater than words itself. Thank you. Danny, Edith, Kyle, Joey, Danny, Jr., Derek, Dillon and Dusty

OSU graduate accepted at **University of Manchester**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my most sincere gratitude to the Choctaw Nation for its key involvement in my college education. Four years ago, earning a college diploma was only a dream. In efforts to make that dream a reality, I met a large obstacle – finances. It was my goal to attend Oklahoma State University and earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics. However, the scholarship money I had collected by the spring of my senior year of high school was not sufficient in meeting all of the financial obligations associated with attending OSU for four years. A blessing from God, the Choctaw Nation removed the hurdle of finance and gave me the opportunity to attend OSU through financial assistance.

My years at OSU provided me with not only the education I desired, but they provided me a plethora of opportunities that opened my eyes to a world outside of my own imagination. The opportunities that were made available to me during my years at OSU took me around the country countless times and out of the United States on three different occasions. These trips opened my eyes to many different aspects of the agricultural industry within the United States and the international dimension of the agricultural industry. Upon reflection of my education at OSU and my experiences within those years, I realized that I have not just *learned* throughout my education at OSU, but I have *learned* how to learn; a skill, which I feel is crucial to one's success in life.

I graduated from OSU on May 10 of this year and received my Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources with a major in Agricultural Economics. In addition to my college degree, I was also honored by being named an OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources "Top Ten Senior," and an OSU Alumni Association "Outstanding Senior" for the University. Since my dream of having a college degree has become a reality, I have decided to continue my education. This past year, I was awarded a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, which funds all of my graduate school overseas. I have been accepted at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom and will move to England in September to begin my Master of Science in Economics and Management of Rural Development.

I rely on my faith in God to direct me in my life decisions. My future is uncertain and only God knows what my calling in life truly is. However, I am certain that wherever I reside; whether it be in the United Kingdom or the United States, I will always be proud of my Choctaw heritage and forever grateful for everything that the Choctaw Nation has provided my family and me. Thank you for your contributions to my college education, and I look forward to the time that my services may be of assistance to the Choctaw Nation. Thank you very much and God bless.

> **Chas Robbins** Spiro, Oklahoma

Sharing facts on Parnell ancestors

In the July issue of the BISHINIK, in the Obituary section, there was an obituary for Ola Bea Parnell Steiger. I have a considerable amount of information about her Parnell ancestors, starting with Robert Parnell (born about 1810 in Georgia), my great-great-grandfather, and James Haywood Parnell (born 1851/1855 in Arkansas), my great-grandfather. I will be glad to share this information with any family members who contact me.

Eugene Roth 2408 S. Suprema Ave. **Springfield, MO 65807-8129** 417-890-1058

e-mail: genorsuprema@earthlink.net Sisters receive support with education

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My sister and I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation Higher Education department for providing financial assistance throughout our college endeavors. We have learned that a college education is imperative to succeed in the current workforce.

My sister, Judy Kay Harlin, attended Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. With the help of the Choctaw Nation, she graduated and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education, with a teaching certificate. She is currently teaching in San Antonio and is enrolled in the master's program at Our Lady of the Lake University. I, Tritia Harlin-Grubbs, attended Texas Lutheran University in Sequin, Texas. I received a Bachlor of Arts degree in Kinesiology with a minor in History. I met my husband at TLU, married in the Summer of 2000, and am celebrating the arrival of our son, Kai Hayden Grubbs. We are currently living in Okinawa, Japan, and working for the Department of Defense Dependent's Schools.

We express our gratitude for the outstanding support the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma gave while my sister and I obtained our education. With the support of the Choctaw Nation, and our parents, John and Sophie Harlin, we were able to obtain a higher education. Thank you for the help and assistance in providing us with this gift.

Judy Kay Harlin and Tritia Harlin-Grubbs

POSITION AVAILABLE Nutrition Site Aide

The Senior Community Service Employment Program has a position available at the Choctaw Nation Community Center, Durant, Oklahoma, for a Nutrition Site Aide.

This is a two-year training program, 20 hours per week. Must be 55 years or older. Must meet income guideline.

Call 580-924-8280, ext. 2202 or 2272.

Hospital provides excellent care

Dear Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey,

We recently had our second child at the Choctaw Nation hospital (obstetric department) in Talihina, Oklahoma. The experience we encountered was second to none. The wonderful staff of receptionists, nurses, doctors and pediatricians all provided excellent service and care. The facility is kept clean and presentable and our stay was very pleasant. We are very thankful to have access to such a nice health facility.

The Brandon Spears family

Writer documenting role of women in the military

Dear Editor,

On October 27, 1918, The Oklahoman published a short news item about Effie Barnett, Choctaw, who had arrived safely in France to begin her tour as an Army nurse. It included Effie's picture and noted she was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Barnett of Allen. Effie graduated from the Presbyterian College in Durant and attended All Saints hospital training school for nurses in McAlester.

I am interested in Effie Barnett because I am currently working on a book about the history of Native American women in the military. There is little documented about the role of Native American women during this era and I would like to find out more about Effie's mili-

If anyone has any information on Effie Barnett I would appreciate hearing from you. I would also appreciate any information on any Native women who have served or are currently serving in the military (reservists, National Guard, Coast Guard, ROTC, etc.).

You can contact me, Brenda Finnicum, at 395 Sheldon Rd., Freeville, NY 13068; e-mail Dogweaver2@aol.com or 607-347-4540. For more information on the role of Native American women in

the military visit my website at www.nativewomenveterans.org.

Package appreciated

Dear Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation,

Thank you for the boxes of food and hygiene items that are limited over here. My soldiers and I appreciate anything you send.

Enjoyable year spent in Germany

Dear Choctaw Nation,

We have enjoyed our year of teaching in Germany. We taught math at a high school for missionary's children. The missionaries are in or from 50 different countries.

Thank you for the packet of Choctaw information you sent. It will be used in the American History class this coming year.

Lynne Hultquist Centre Hall, Pennsylvania

CARES staff provides fun and educational programs for children

Dear Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey,

We would like to express our appreciation to the Choctaw Nation CARES program for coming to our church and to tell how much we appreciated the activities they shared with our children. The children were involved in team building, cultural awareness, and alcohol prevention activities. These activities were fun and very educational for the children. CARES staff also provided refreshments and a goodie bag for everyone. The children really enjoyed the activities they participated in that day. We thank you for all you're doing in the Choctaw Nation and for what you do for the young people of the Choctaw Nation. We would like to extend a special thank you to CAREs staff members, Kathryn Pitchford, Jack Austin, Jr., Patsy Whitmore, Noella Bowers and Sherry Wall.

The Goodwater Community, **Jeffie Gibson**



Reunions

ISHCOMER-WESLEY-EMEYABBI-BILLY A gathering of the Ischomer, Wesley, Emeyabbi and Billy family begins at 10 a.m. Friday, September 19, at the Elem J. Wesley house in Kanawka, Texas. The family reunion continues on Saturday, September 20, with supper at 5:30 p.m., preaching from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. by Ellis Taylor of Wright City, and gospel singing beginning at 7:30 p.m. The gospel singing will feature the Crosby Family of Wright City and many more. MC is Truman Jefferson. For more information, please call

580-286-9216. Bring your lawn chairs. MEASHINTUBBY-JONES-THOMPSON

Descendants of Reba Meashintubby, Wilburn Jones, Sr., Cephus Jones and Betty Thompson are holding their second family reunion on September 20, 2003 at Talihina State Park in Talihina, Oklahoma. Activities include horseshoe, volleyball, possibly softball and other games. A potluck dinner will be served at noon – everybody bring a covered dish. Also we will be celebrating a birthday dinner for Hailey Dawn McKinney on that day. Everyone come and enjoy the reunion. For more information, contact Kathy Leach at 972-278-1077 or Joyce Purser at 972-

OKLAHOMA PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

The Oklahoma Presbyterian College Alumni Reunion will be October 3-5, 2003 at Choctaw Inn, south of Durant, Oklahoma. Registration begins at 2 p.m. Friday, October 3, at the Choctaw Inn Conference Room. Several activities have been planned for the weekend - a tour of Tribal Headquarters, Friday evening fellowship and reception, Saturday morning brunch and fellowship, Saturday evening banquet, recognition of distinguished OPC alumnus, history of OPC, singing and fellowship, door prizes and several other activities. For more information about the reunion and scheduled activities, please contact Janis Imotichey at 580-443-5468.

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@ocevnet.org, or Leon Yahola at 918-616-3757.

24th Annual Gospel Singing

hosted by the Horn Family at the Bryan County Community Center South 9th St. at the fairgrounds in Durant, Oklahoma **7:00 p.m. September 27**

- Featured Groups -**Christlike • Eastern Gate • Triplets** Duncan, Okla. Durant, Okla. Valliant, Okla. Plus many more – bring your groups!

Concession available • FREE admission MC: Johnson Corney Buck

Health fair

Bernice Williams, right, checks the blood pressure of hundreds of visitors and Annette Choate, below, counsels on health improvements at the health tent during the Labor Day Festival. The tent, full of booths focusing on healthy living for all ages, opened for visitors Friday, Saturday and Sunday.





Chaplain's Corner

By the Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Tribal Chaplain

The 2003 Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival marked another great weekend of family activities and the fellowship of families and friends. May our Choctaw Nation continue to grow.

We are reminded that a nation can rise no higher, can be no stronger, and be no better than the individuals which compose that nation. And today I share with you a challenge from the Book of Galatians 5:22-26. I believe it is impossible to understand the Bible, or Christian living without understanding something of the Person and the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible teaches that God is in three persons. God is One, but He is manifested in three Persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is coequal with the God the Father and coequal with God the Son. The Bible also teaches that the Holy Spirit is a Person. He is never to be referred to as "it". He is not just an agent. He is not just an influence. He is a Mighty Person, the Holy Spirit of God.

The Bible tells us that He is Omnipotent – that means that He has all power; that He is Omnipresent – that means that He is everywhere at the same time; that he is Omniscient – that means that He has all knowledge. He knows everything that you do – He watches you.

He hears the lies that you tell. He knows the thoughts and intents of your heart. He knows what is in your mind, the things you think, the intents of your soul. He knows all about it. He knows everything. The Bible teaches that He writes down in a book everything that you do and someday it shall be brought out as evidence at the Great Judgment of God.

The Bible tells us something of the work of the Holy Spirit. What does He do? We are told in the Gospel of John 16:8 that He convicts men of sin: "And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." It is the Holy Spirit who convicts you of your sin. He makes you feel uncomfortable, He pricks your conscience. He makes you acknowledge and admit to yourself that you are a sinner, and then He gives you the strength and the power to turn from your sins. You cannot come to Jesus Christ unless the Holy Spirit convicts you, and you must repent of your

Then the Bible teaches that when the Holy Spirit has convicted you of sin, when you are willing to give yourself to Christ, and when you come to Christ, He gives new life. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. The moment that you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, the Holy Spirit of God comes

in and regenerates.

The Bible also teaches that you are dead in trespasses and sins. Now this doesn't mean your body is dead. It's your soul that is dead. Your soul that lives in your body is going to live forever – that part of you is dead toward God. It is called "spiritual death". The moment you come to Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God brings the life of God into you and you begin to live. The soul that rejects the Lord Jesus Christ will spend eternity in a place prepared for the devil and his angels.

The Spirit of God has given to you the very life of God – and God is an eternal God – that means you will live as long as God lives and that is for eternity.

The Bible also teaches that the Spirit of God produces the fruit of the Spirit: "but the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance." (Galatians

Now these nine things are to characterize the life of every born again child of God. We are to be filled with love, we are to have joy, we are to have peace, we are to have longsuffering or patience, we are to be gentle and kind, we are to be filled with goodness, we are to have faith, there is to be meekness, and we are to have temperance. But what do we find? We find in the average so-called Christian today the very opposite.

Everyone before he comes to Jesus Christ is dominated by one nature, the "old man", which is called the flesh. The flesh, the world, and the devil control your life. You are controlled by your ego. You are controlled by yourself. The moment you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, that self is put down and Christ is put on the throne in your life and the Spirit of God dominates your life.

One thing we remember – self is still there, sometimes hidden, sometimes quiet – waiting his opportunity and his chance to take control again.

As a Christian, you have the power, you have the will to yield either to the flesh and live a fleshly carnal life, or you have the power to yield to the Spirit, to live a Spirit-filled life. Which are you living? Are you living a life on the human plane, a fleshly carnal life in which there is little Bible reading, little prayer? You may go to a church, but there is no daily walk



with Christ. There is no joy that you know a Christian should have. Your life is an up and down experience. God never meant it to be that way. God meant the Christian life to be on the highest possible plane at all times, bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

When you come to Jesus Christ by faith – He gives you the Holy Spirit who produces the fruit of the Spirit. After the Holy Spirit is in you, you must yield to Him so He controls your life. It is then that sin shall not rule over

you.

The Bible says "... greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4) If this is what you have been looking for, you must by an act of faith receive Jesus Christ. You must give Him your whole life. You can do this

today!

Christian Indians and friends, paraphrase Paul the Apostle's desire in Roman's 10:1 and pray, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for 'American Indians' is that they might be saved."

We do pray for precious souls around the world as we are reminded in Matthew 7:13: "... broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there by which go in thereat."

Pray for President Bush, the leaders of the United States and our Indian Nations. Pray for our Choctaw Chief, Assistant Chief, members of the Tribal Council and the spiritual leaders among us. May the Lord bless you!

Atoka language class

A beginning Choctaw language class will start at 6:30 p.m. October 6 at the Choctaw Community Center in Atoka. For more information, please call 580-889-6147.

CHOCTAW APPRECIATION DAY

October 25, 2003 • Antlers, Oklahoma – Slowpitch Softball Tournament –

Begins at 10 a.m. – Single Elimination

Entry fee \$50 – Limited to first 12 teams
Call (580) 298-2842 to enter

- Dinner and speaking at 5:30 p.m. - ALL EVENTS AT ANTLERS FAIRGROUNDS

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

Encouragement for a healthier lifestyle

It is obvious that an epidemic of diabetes threatens the Choctaw people. Approximately 17 million Americans, or 6.2%, have diabetes. Unfortunately, one third do not know they have diabetes. A special task force has been created to work toward preventing diabetes and improving health among Choctaws.

among Choctaws.

The task force members are health professionals, Choctaw program directors, a representative of the Choctaw Council and myself. For almost two years, the task force has worked on special projects to raise diabetes awareness and prevention of diabetes.

Recently the task force changed its name to the Healthy Lifestyles Task Force and will focus on all the many health problems facing the Choctaw people, although diabetes remains the most serious health care issue.

The rate of diabetes for Native Americans and Alaska Natives is an average of 2.6 times higher than that of the non-Hispanic whites of similar age. Of the Choctaws receiving care from the Choctaw Nation Health Care Services, approximately 12% have diabetes.

More than 60% of Americans are classified as obese or over-



weight. This increases the risk of diabetes, heart disease and certain

Changing the lifestyle of people is an enormous task. Improvement of eating and exercise habits are a crucial part of the solution. Studies show that a decrease of 5% to 10% of body

weight and increasing physical activities to three times a week can reduce the chances of getting cancer by 58%.

These statistics should encourage all of us to live a healthier lifestyle, and increase the longevity of the Choctaw people from this year forward.

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

It is an honor to serve on EDGE

A great honor has been bestowed upon me by the Governor of Oklahoma, Brad Henry. In his quest for developing a plan to help the state gain a competitive edge in the global economy, Governor Henry wanted to include the Choctaw Nation. The Governor has created EDGE (Economic Development Generating Excellence) committees, which will be examining topics that include agriculture, energy, health, information technologies, infrastructure, manufacturing, tax policy and aerospace, among many others.

Being selected to serve on the Steering Committee which will spearhead the project is very exciting. I look forward to working with the expert panelists on the many topics. A number of these experts also live in Bryan County. Senator Jay Paul Gumm will serve on the expert panel for local and regional economic development. Southeastern Oklahoma State University President Glen Johnson has been appointed to the panel of experts on amenities and cultural climate. Representative John Carey of Durant will represent his district on



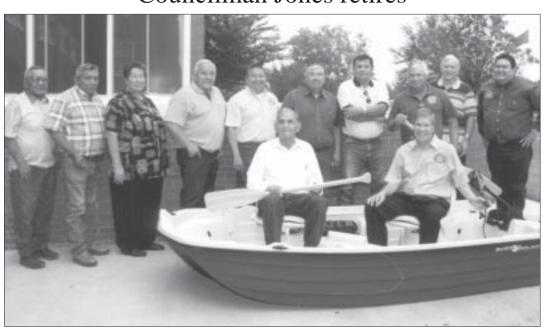
the expert panel on manufacturing. Choctaw Nation Executive Gary Batton has been appointed to serve on the health care panel.

I truly appreciate the confidence of the business and community leaders, especially John Massey and Chief Greg Pyle, who recommended me for the position. There are twenty-three panels of statewide experts from

the public and private sectors. The steering committee is charged with developing a proposal to be presented on economic growth for Oklahoma by December. This is an ambitious project for long-term economic prosperity.

The Steering Committee will gather input from experts and citizens and guide the process to its completion.

Councilman Jones retires



Going away gifts were presented to Charley Jones at his retirement party, showing appreciation for his many years of dedicated service to the Choctaw people. Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, Tribal Councilmembers and Tribal program staff expressed best wishes to Mr. Jones.

CHILDREN OF TRADITION RETREAT

The Choctaw Nation Community Health Representatives and the CARES Project will be hosting a Children of Tradition Retreat on October 17-18, 2003 at the Choctaw Nation Capital Grounds in Tushka Homma. All Native American children from 8-12 years old residing in the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation service area wishing to attend must be registered by September 26.

Choctaw, Pushmataha, Bryan, Atoka, Hughes and Coal county retreat date will be October 17.

 $LeFlore, Latimer, Pittsburg, Haskell \ and \ McCurtain \ county \ retreat \ date \ will \ be \ October \ 18.$

To register, please contact a Community Health Representative at 1-800-349-7026, ext. 6094 or

6093. The CARES Project is striving to help Native American children and families, experiencing a temporary disharmony, access services.



The Choctaw Nation Community Health Representatives and CARES are working together to build a healthy future for Native American youth.



Choctaw singers preserve heritage

Sixteen Choctaw people met recently at the St. Paul United Methodist Church in Talihina to sing the Old Time Choctaw Hymns in the Choctaw language. These songs were adapted from the Sacred Harp and Christian Harmony songbooks printed in the early 1800s. The Choctaw hymns are always performed acappella.

As the group, including people from Talihina, Honobia, Whitesboro, Wilburton, Hartshorne, Stigler and McCurtain, sang these beautiful old songs they were being recorded. The recordings have been placed on the Voices Across America's website, www.pilgrimproduction.org for all to enjoy. The website is a project of the Rev. Dan C. McCurry, Ph.D., who is the Trauma Chaplain for the Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

The Rev. McCurry, accompanied by June Melton, is visiting several states to record Native Americans singing in their native tongue in their own homes, congregations or religious centers. He then makes the beautiful songs available to all generations along with pictures of the performers on his website. He calls his project "Old Path Harmonies."

The project will recover Native American Shape Note Musical Traditions. Many Native Americans today sing from hymnals and other song books, which were based on the shape note musical traditions of the four and seven shapes, first taught by the missionaries in the early 1800s. Norman and Juanita Jefferson, full-blood Choctaws, wanted to preserve indigenous tunes for the Choctaw hymns. They completed this family project with tunes for over 50 hymns in the Choctaw language before Norman's death in 1993. After Norman passed away Juanita recorded their work.

McCurry is using these recordings to identify the same tunes that were in the early-day songbooks. He is visiting several different tribes, asking them to sing the same songs to see how their songs compare with each other. Juanita Jefferson became involved with the project when she and 20 other Choctaws from Talihina, Broken Bow, Eagletown, Idabel and surrounding areas who made up the Oklahoma Choctaw Nation Senior Choir boarded one of the brand new Choctaw Nation buses and made their way to Union, Mississippi to attend a singing school hosted by the Symnra Baptist Church. The group was able to stay on the church campgrounds. The school was sponsored by the Beasley Foundation. The Mississippi Choctaw Choir also attended the singing school.

These two choirs joined to record the songs compiled by the Rev. McCurry. This recording is also on the website.

We owe a great deal to all of these people who give of their time and gifts of beautiful music in order to preserve the Choctaw language and songs so that they may always be enjoyed.

WIC

WOMEN, INFANT & CHILDREN

Playing your "weigh" to fitness

Kids need regular physical activity (30 to 60 minutes a day) to maintain a healthy weight while growing normally. School classes and athletics count, and so do sports like Little League. Active play with friends and family is another fun way to get moving.

1. Play inside.

There are plenty of ways to enjoy fun indoor family play without destroying the house. Turn off the TV and the computer – and play an old-fashioned game of hide-and-seek. Clear a space for wiggling, dancing, and playing with soft-foam balls and squishy toys.

2. Play outside.

The options for outdoor fun are unlimited: bikes, trikes, scooters, balls, kits, Frisbees, jump ropes, squirt guns and hula-hoops. There's also a long list of childhood games that the whole family can play together – like more hide-and-seek, tag and hopscotch.

3. Play in the yard.

Whatever the size of your yard, you can turn it into a neighborhood fun zone with a few basic toys – a basketball hoop, a rope swing, or a sandbox depending on the age of your children. Keep it simple – and let kids use their innate creativity to stay active.

4. Play at the park.

Many communities have fun park facilities. Often they are close enough so that you can leave the car at home – and walk or ride a bike. Make it a regular family outing. When the weather is nice you can even take a picnic and play before <u>and</u> after dinner.

5. Play at the gym.

Indoor gyms offer safety, warmth and fun programs for kids and parents. Check your area for schools, colleges, community centers, fitness facilities, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCAs ad other agencies that are open evenings, weekends and vacations.

6. Play on the field.

Almost every community in the USA offers sport programs for children – baseball, football, basketball, soccer, tennis, and swimming. There are programs for all ages and all levels of skill – and most emphasize FUN and the opportunity for parents to get involved.

Used with permission of Eat Right Montana.

Nursery News

Ty'Ray Poor Buffalo

Ty'Ray Poor Buffalo was born May 17, 2003 at Carl Albert Indian Hospital in Ada. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 inches long. Proud parents are Carl and Shanna Rae PoorBuffalo of Ada, Oklahoma.

Grandparents are Billy Ray and Marcella Jones of Broken Bow and

Micky and Jeanette Weryackwe of Lawton, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Martha Jones of Broken Bow, the late Lucille Bear, Lewis PoorBuffalo, Sr. and Sarah Tofpi, both of Carnegie, Oklahoma and Henry and LeQuita Tamahsah of Lawton.

Also welcoming Ty'Ray are his cousin, Jakob Moore; aunts, Hiyadeja Moore of Broken Bow, Amanda and Jenny Weryackwe of Lawton, and uncle, Jeff Moore, who is stationed in Korea.

Kayelin Jo Kindred

Alissa Lynn is proud to announce the birth of her baby sister, Kayelin Jo, born 11:10 a.m. May 11, 2003 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. She weighed 7 pounds, 15.5 ounces and was 20 inches long. Parents are Jody and Melissa Kindred of Daisy, Oklahoma. Grandparents are

Rita Carter of Buffalo Valley, Don Carter of Piedmont, Oklahoma, Ruth Kindred of Daisy and the late Arville Kindred. Her great-grand-parents are Bonnie Harvey Sparks of Buffalo Valley, Audrey Isom Burleson of Daisy, Marie Lewis of Wilburton, and the late Annie McIntosh Carter.

Siomara Gallegos

Memo and Carisa Gallegos would like to announce the arrival of daughter, Siomara. Siomara was born 9:50 p.m. May 9, 2003 at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. She weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 19.9 inches long. Her grandparents are Dora Ward of Antlers, Okla-

homa, the late Woodrow Caldwell, and Guillerno and Hesiquia Gallegos of Houston, Texas. Also, favorite aunt, Martha Taylor, and uncle, Hobie Taylor, Sr., of Sobol, Oklahoma and many cousins and family are welcoming her.

Caitlyn Renee McReynolds

Caitlyn Renee McReynolds was born June 9, 2003. Proud parents are Howard W. and Diane (Wernberg) McReynolds. Welcome to the family, Caitlyn.



Trystan Lane Ingle

Larry and Michelle Ingle would like to announce the birth of their son, Trystan Lane Ingle.

Trystan was born at 8:47 p.m. July 22, 2003 at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He weighed 4 pounds and measured 16.5 inches long.



Eli Sawyer White

Eli Sawyer White was born on October 25, 2002. He is the son of Rick and Stephanie White, brother of Zoe Grace White, and the grandson of Choctaw artist George Willis, all of Carlsbad, California. He is the greatgrandson of the late Mary Folsom

Willis, great-niece of Roy Folsom of McAlester and the great-grandson of the late George and Nannie Folsom.

Elysian Armand Borrero

Elysian Armand Borrero was born May 21, 2003 in Denver, Colorado. He weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and was 21 inches long. His parents are Darian and Tom Borrero of Aurora, Colorado. Ely's grandparents are Pat and Dick Johnston of The Colony, Texas. Great-grandparents are the late Mariorie and



grandparents are the late Marjorie and Herbert E. Needham, an original enrollee, of Hugo, Oklahoma.

October 30

Blocker - Main St.

Hunter Lee Williston

Hunter Lee Williston was born at 3:36 p.m. March 18, 2003 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina, Oklahoma. Hunter weighed 7 pounds and measured 21 inches long. He is the son of Ashley Williston of Idabel, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Angie McKinney and Terry Williston



of Idabel. Great-grandparents are Helen and Ray Hester of Valliant, Oklahoma, the late Raymond McKinney of Idabel and Ruthie Williston and the late William Williston of Idabel. Hunter is the great-great-grandson of Ella Jones of Idabel. Also welcoming Hunter is his Uncle Teyler Williston of Idabel. Hunter would like to wish his Uncle Teyler a happy 11th birthday!

Konnor Dean Tom

Konnor Dean Tom was born July 7, 2003 at Okmulgee Hospital, weighing 8 pounds, 14 ounces and measuring 21 inches in length.

Konnor is the son of Joey Tom and Hope Watkins. Grandparents are Jimmy and Betty Tom of Broken Bow, Oklahoma and Charles and Marie Wat-



kins of Wright City, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are Robert and Melissa Bohanan of Bethel, the late Albert and Genese Tom, Zeke and Faye Watkins of Wright City and the late Amos Taylor of Wright City.

Jade Lynn Burkett

Tré N. Burkett would like to announce the birth of his baby sister, Jade Lynn Burkett. Jade was born at 9:10 p.m. on May 12, 2003 at Storm0ant-Vail Hospital in Topeka, Kansas to Nicki Brown and Derek Burkett of Topeka. She weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20 inches long.



Her loving family includes her big brother, Tre; grandma, Pamela Maxwell-Potts; aunt, Jenna, and great-grandparents, Dee and Gene Potts, all of Kansas.

Best Mother's Day gift I could have received! Love, Mommy.

Braxton "Slade" Kendrick

Kevin and Shauana Kendrick of Lone Grover, Oklahoma are very proud to announce the birth of their son, Braxton "Slade" Kendrick. Slade was born at 2:56 a.m. on April 23, 2003 at Carl Albert Hospital in Ada, Oklahoma. He weighed 9 pounds, 6.6 ounces and measured 21.3 inches.



Grandparents are the late Jerry Kendrick, Jerry and Ruth Holley of Dickson, Oklahoma. Slade has a very sweet Great-Grandma, Noble Kendrick of Ardmore, Oklahoma. He also has a pair of proud grandmas in Lone Grove, Oklahoma, first-time Grandma Evelyn Miller and Great-Grandma Lula Parker. He has many aunts and uncles but he has truly blessed the lives of his Uncle Alden and Uncle Aaron Williams of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Uncle Clarence and Auntie Angela Snyder of Anchorage, Alaska, Uncle Shay Miller of Wilson, Oklahoma and proud Great-Aunt Yvonne Vansill of Gainesville, Texas.

Rayna Irene Hudson

Anthony Lee Hayward, Jr. would like to announce the arrival of his little sister, Rayna Irene Hudson, at 2:32 p.m. on May 26, 2003. She weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19.25 inches long.



She was welcomed home by her big brother and grandparents. Proud parents are Jeremiah Wayne Hudson and Denise Lynn Hudson of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Elvin and Linda Emmons of Margate, Florida.

2nd Annual Turkey Shoot

Veteran's Day at Tuskahoma

More information will be announced in the October BISHINIK

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

November 20, 2003 is the final date to purchase Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for pecans and most perennial fruit crops. November 30, 2003 is the final date to purchase NAP coverage for protection against 2004 cool and/or warm season grass hay losses. For more information, call the Farm Service Agency at 580-371-3219, ext. 2.

Quinton - Main St.



Choctaw Nation WIC

Serving the Choctaw Nation at 14 sites

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

MOBILE WELLNESS CENTER SCHEDULE

October 2003

Date	10 a.m12 noon	1-3 p.m.		
October 3	Stuart - Store	Calvin - Senior Center		
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention				
October 7	ameron - Store Rock Island - Store			
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention				
October 9	Finley - Store	Nashoba - Store		
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention				
October 14	Big Cedar- Store	Octavia - Store		
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention				
October 16	Wilburton - EOSC Campus	Wilburton - Old Court House		
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention				
October 21	Durant - Travel Plaza by Bingo	Durant - Across Farmer's Market		
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention				
October 24	Tupelo - Store	Coalgate - Choctaw Center		
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention				
October 28	Ashland - Main St.	Blanco - Main St.		
Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention				

Cholesterol, diabetes & blood pressure screenings; Alzheimer's & dementia education & prevention

KEDDO spotlights Councilman Durant

Choctaw Councilperson Randle Durant was spotlighted recently in the Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma's newsletter. Mr. Durant has served with the KEDDO Area Agency on Aging Silver Haired Legislature since 1992 and was selected as the KEDDO Area Outstanding Older Oklahoman in 1997. He was appointed to the KEDDO Board of Trustees in 1993 representing the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and has been an invaluable member of the board helping oversee programs that benefit not only Choctaws but all of Southeastern Oklahoma.

"Randle is a fine example of tribal leadership," said Chief Gregory Pyle. "He has devoted two decades to the Choctaws in District 6, serving as their Council-



person. He is dedicated to improving the health, education and employment of all the members of the Choctaw Nation.'

Mr. Durant, 81, was born in Bennington. He attended Belvin School in Boswell, St. Agnes

Academy in Ardmore, and Goodland Indian Orphanage in Hugo. He joined the Oklahoma National Guard when he was 16 years old. In 1940, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving for 11 years, seeing action in both World War II and in Korea and becoming the most decorated Choctaw in these

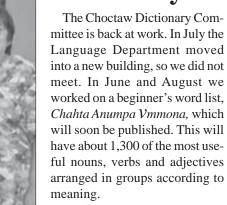
Randle and wife Margaret have lived in the Talihina area for 23 years. They have five children and ten grandchildren.

He was elected to the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council on September 1, 1983 and was elected to serve as the Speaker of the Council for six years. He has also served as President of Choctaw Nation Enterprise, Inc. and helped introduce the commodity and inventory programs for the

October Calendar **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION** AND PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY PROGRAM **Sunday Tuesday** Wednesday **Thursday Friday Saturday** Monday Vocational Rehabilitation and Projects With Industry representative will be available at the locations Idabel isted. A representative is available Monday thru Fri-10 am-2 pm lay 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office. Stigler 11 by appt. only **Talihina Durant Broken Bow** McAlester 10 am-2 pm 10 am-12 noon 9:30 am-2 pm 10 am-2 pm 12 18 13 15 Atoka 17 9-11 am Poteau **Antlers** Coalgate by appt. only 11 am-1:30 pm 12 noon-2 pm 22 Crowder | 23 19 20 24 25 by appt only Durant Wright City McAlester by appt only by appt. only by appt only 26 27 28 30 31 Wilburton Bethel

Dictionary Committee creates useful word list for beginners

10:30 am-2 pm



We have some more texts to share with you. The first two texts illustrate two variants of the Choctaw language. The third text is a poem which shows how Choctaw words can be used to enhance the beauty of a poem written in English.

Lillie Jessie grew up in Frederick, but now lives in Haworth. She teaches Choctaw community classes in Idabel, and is a member of the Dictionary Committee. She tells the following story in which a warning to her children proved to be pro-

Vlla tuchchina hosh iyyi okpulo ilahobbi

Vlla tuchchina hosh vm iyyasha hatuk <u>o</u>, okla m<u>o</u>ma kvt iyyi okpulo ilahobbi cha, iyyi y<u>a</u> vba takachit hottopa isht chiyyomit ik eyo hosh, chohmit ai asha tuk yo. Atuk o im anoli lih mvt, "Hvsh ahnik m<u>a</u> illa keyu mut, alikchi hvsh pisa ch<u>i</u>. Ak mvt, hvchik nowa kachi kiyo ana, ak mvt na'sht apela isht ishi osh hvsh aya chi ana."

Atuk <u>o</u> <u>a</u>lhi im anoli li tuk y<u>o</u>.



Members of the Choctaw Nation Dictionary Committee include, front row from left, Lillie Jessie, Rhoda Anderson, Kaye Choate and Christine Ludlow, and back row from left, Dale Nicklas, Evaline Steele, Henry Willis, Richard Adams and Paula Carney. Not pictured are Ken Baptiste, Dixon Lewis and Abe Frazier.

Moma kvt isht apela ishi beka tuk

"I had three children, and they all pretended that their legs were broken, and so they were raising their legs up, acting like they were hurting real bad. So I told them, 'If you aren't careful, you will see the doctor, you will not be able to walk, you will go around with crutches.' So I did tell them the truth. All three did use crutches (at different times).

The following recipe comes from Rhoda Anderson of Haywood. She teaches Choctaw community classes in McAlester, and she teaches Choctaw in the bilingual education program in Canadian. She also serves on the

Holhponi

oka kalvn iklvnna tanchi tohbi isht ishko ushta soti ibana hinla

Dictionary Committee.

Oka kalvn iklvnna fokali shuti ibani, tanchi tohbi isht ishko ushta fokka oka ma ittibani. Soti kanomosi, chiniffi achvffa fokali, ish ibana hinla. Ish towahanchik ma nona chi. Kiyo hokano lua hinla. Hvshi kvnalli tuchchina

fokka wahlvllik m<u>a</u>, vlhtaha. Kil oh impa!

by appt only

"Put about a half gallon of water in a pot, add about four cups of white corn to the water. You can add some soda, about one pinch. You keep stirring until done. If not, it will burn. When it boils for about three hours, it is ready. Let's eat!

Eveline Battiest Steele of Broken Bow teaches Choctaw in DeQueen, Arkansas. One of her students, Lynda Hightower, has written several poems using some of the Choctaw words she has learned. Here is a poem she wrote back in 2001 when she was in the first phase.

Red Earth to Flesh

Red earth to flesh Mother Earth gave birth Hattak vpi humma Hattak, Ohoyo, vlla Ittakamvssa

The land it was so good! Plenty of yanvsh chito and issi The bok was full of good oka

> And plenty of nvni. Pinak, achukma hoke! Pvlvska, nipi, tanchi, Ahe, takkon chito, and pishukchi. A, achukma hoke! Red earth to flesh Mother Earth gave birth.

Do you have a text to share with us? Send us your story to share with the Nation.

Okla ittim anumpoli cha, anumpa fvlama et p<u>i</u> pilah! Yakoke!

Healthy Lifestyle Tips

who help with community activities.

By Sharon Moore

Trade munching for crunching

If you are a nibbler by nature, trade a chip for a "strip" – of fresh, sliced vegetables such as peppers, green beans, carrots, celery, snow peas, etc. Fresh vegetables are crisp like crackers and have a built-in weight loss feature - volume. By choosing foods high in fiber and water, you will be satisfied with fewer calories. Raw vegetables, at only 25 calories a cup, make it hard to go overboard.

Walter Phelps and Concetta Gragg, Crowder's outstanding

Choctaw man and woman, Sharon Moore and Dena Cantrell are

Crowder Choctaw Center

A healthy lifestyle is a focus of concern for Chief Gregory E.

Pyle. In July, Sharon Moore was hired as director of the Healthy

Lifestyles program. Sharon is visiting with program directors, coun-

cil members and community centers to assess where each commu-

nity is in regard to a healthy lifestyle and to coordinate activities to

Ms. Moore visited Crowder Community Center on July 30 and

The Crowder community is involved in many activities to en-

hance a healthy lifestyle for residents. Dena Cantrell, Crowder field

representative, leads a group in exercise every Tuesday. After eat-

ing, they share lunch and make arts and crafts. The donated TV/

VCR will allow them to use the exercise videos provided by the

The residents may also use the treadmill and exercise bike when

the community center is open. According to Dena, she and other

Choctaws in Crowder have lost weight and are getting stronger since

starting the exercise program. She said there are great volunteers

delivered a 19" color TV/VCR donated by Baetz Home Center of

concentrating on health

pictured with the center's new TV/VCR.

help them achieve better health.

Poteau, Oklahoma.

Diabetes Wellness Center.

No time for exercise?

Trade exercising for extra movement worked into your day. At work or while shopping, park at the far end of the parking lot. Take stairs at work and hand deliver memos rather than e-mailing them. When at home and on the phone, walk around the room rather than sitting. Invest in a pedometer (a device that counts your steps) and work your way up to 10,000 steps a day - that translates into a 10pound weight loss in a year!

Irish Cream Iced Cappucino

- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder 1/2 cup instant coffee granules
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup Equal Spoonful or Splenda
- 6 cups fat-free milk
- 1/2 cup liquid Irish cream coffee creamer or flavor of choice

Whisk together first 3 ingredients in a large saucepan until smooth. Bring to a boil over medium heat, whisking constantly, 2 minutes. Remove mixture from heat; add Equal or Splenda. Cool slightly. Whisk in milk and creamer. Cover and chill at least 4 hours or up to

Serve over ice. Makes 8 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 123 cal, 9 g pro., 18 g carb., 2 g fat, 4 mg chol., 102 mg sodium. Food exchanges: 1 1/2 milk.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

OCTOBER 2003						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	Poteau (A-L) 9-2 Stigler 9-2	3	4
5	6 Poteau	7	8	9	10	11
	(M-Z) 9-2 Coalgate 9-10:30 Atoka 12-2		Talihina 9-12		Broken Bow 9-2	
12	13	Bethel 9-10:30 Smithville 12-2	15	16 Wright City 9-10:30 Hugo 12-2	17	18
19	20 Idabel 9-12	21	22	0%	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Food Distribution Sites

Shopping Center.

Church.

IDABEL – Choctaw Village

McALESTER - Choctaw

POTEAU – Choctaw Nation

SMITHVILLE – Big Lick

Commodity Warehouse, 1212 S.

ANTLERS - Choctaw Commodity Warehouse, 306 S.W. "O" St.

ATOKA – National Guard Armory.

BETHEL - Choctaw Nation Community Building.

BROKEN BOW - Choctaw Nation Family Investment Cen-

COALGATE - Choctaw Community Center.

Dr.

DURANT - Choctaw Com-

modity Warehouse, 100 Waldron HUGO – Housing Authority.

STIGLER - Choctaw Community Building.

Head Start Building.

Family Investment Center.

TALIHINA – Boys & Girls

WRIGHT CITY - Choctaw

The Food Distribution Pro-

gram 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.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Choctaw Nation Head Start 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, the 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 below: Atoka, Antlers, Bennington, Bethel, Broken Bow, Coalgate, Durant, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester, Poteau, Stigler, Wilburton and Wright City.

Artist's work on display

California Choctaw artist Laurie Moore will be a featured artist during a Native American group show in September. The Pacific Western Trader, which features Laurie's work, will be participating in the Sacramento area artwalk on September 13. Laurie's oil paintings are narrative paintings of Choctaw culture such as dancing and

stickball. For more information, please call the gallery at 916-985-3851. It is located at 305 Wool St., Folsom, California.

People You Know



Birthday greetings

Happy 21st birthday on August 1 to Chris Alan Parish. We love you, from Mom, Dad, Ray, Mike and Shawn.

Chris is the grandson of the late Rev. Sampson and Mary Parish, Edmond Barnett, Jr. of Dustin, Oklahoma and the late Ida Barnett.

He is a 2000 graduate of Ada High School and currently resides in Bixby, Oklahoma.

Also having a birthday in August is Linda L. Parish on August 11.

Have a very happy birthday, from your sis and family, Jennifer, David, Chris, Ray, Mike and Shawn. We love you very much!

Eight years young

Queen J. Hughes turned eight years young on May 29. She is the daughter of Virginia Jim and Marvin Hughes. We would like to wish her the best eighth ever. Happy birthday Granny Lue from your family - Mom, brothers and Steve.



Look who's seven

Happy birthday to Quentin N. Hughes. Quentin turned seven years young on June 16. He is the son of Virginia Jim and Marvin Hughes.

Happy birthday Q-Tin from your family - Mom, brothers, sister and



Wishing Quontez A. Hughes the very best sixth birthday on July 14 are his Mom, sister, brothers and Steve. Quontez is the son of Virginia Jim and Marvin Hughes.

Happy brithday Tez!



Terrific two

Quontrael K. Cleveland turned two on June 26. He is the son of Virginia Jim and Steve Cleveland. The family would like to wish him the best!

Happy birthday Tinka Stink from Momma, Daddy, brothers and sis-



Teyler Bryce Williston of Idabel, Oklahoma celebrated his 11th birthday on July 30. Teyler is the son of Angie McKinney and Terry Williston of Idabel. He is the grandson of Helen Hester of Valliant, Oklahoma and the late Raymond McKinney of Idabel and the

great-grandson of Ella Jones, Ruthie Williston and the late William Williston of Idabel.

Teyler would like to announce the birth of his nephew, Hunter Lee Williston, who was born March 18 at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina.

Seabstion turns one

Happy birthday to Sebastion Todd Roberts. He turned one year old on July 28. Sebastion's parents are Kelly Roberts and Jarome Morgan of Ardmore, Oklahoma. Grandparents are Freda Roberts and Ricky Davis of Ardmore. He is the nephew of Conrad Nedd of



Sand Springs, Oklahoma, Johnathan Roberts of White Rock, Utah, Rocky Davis, Jr. and Spencer Davis, both of Planeview, Oklahoma, and Marie Nedd of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

We all wish you a happy birthday, with lots of love and wishes.

Virginia Choctaw turns 14

Chelsea Marie Lenz turned 14 on August 19. She is the daughter of Robert and Cynthia Lenz of Saluda, Virginia and will celebrate her birthday with her brothers, Aaron and Austin.

Grandparents are Helen and Thomas Lenz of Parkville, Maryland and Anita

and Robert Jackson of Saluda. Chelsea is also the great-granddaughter of Lola Kirkes and the late Robert Kirkes of Swan Lake, Oklahoma. Chelsea attends school at St. Clar Walker Middle School and en-

joys softball, shopping and caring for her assortment of animals.

Michael turns 14

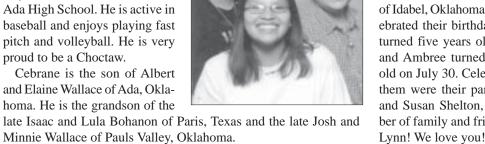
Michael and Michelle Voyles and Mary (Ali) Patterson, all of Copper Center, Alaska, would like to wish Michael Scot Duffee of Big Pine Key, Florida a very happy birthday!

Michael is 14 years old on July 30,

Happy 19th

Kathie and Vincent would like to wish their brother, Cebrane Isaac, a happy 19th birthday on July 11. Cebrane is a senior of Ada High School. He is active in baseball and enjoys playing fast pitch and volleyball. He is very proud to be a Choctaw.

Cebrane is the son of Albert and Elaine Wallace of Ada, Oklahoma. He is the grandson of the



He's a teenager!

Miles McKinley Reich, a/k/a "Mick," of Wright City, Oklahoma will celebrate his 13th birthday on Septem-

Happy birthday, Mick! Love, Gran, Mom and Dad.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Brandan Lewis. Brandan turned 25 August 11. He is the son of the late Eugene



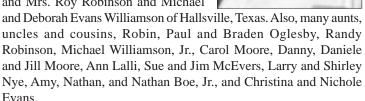


Lewis and LacQuita Lewis of Ada, Oklahoma, Elsie and the late Raymond Lewis of Durant, Oklahoma and Bertha and the late Robert "Trouble" Lewis of Durant.

Also, happy ??? birthday to Elsie M. Lewis of Durant from all of her brood! Grandma, you're still just as young as ever!

Amber celebrates ninth

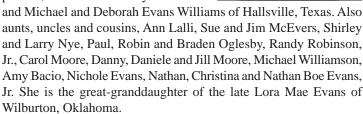
Amber LeAnn Robinson celebrated her ninth birthday on August 8. Wishing her a happy birthday are her little sister, Jenna BreAnn; father, Roy, and mother, Lora Ann Evans Robinson, of Hallsville, Texas; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Robinson and Michael



Amber is the great-granddaughter of the late Lora Mae Evans of Wilburton, Oklahoma.

Look's who's one

Jenna BreAnn Robinson turned one year old on July 11. Wishing her a happy birthday are her mother, Lora Ann Evans Robinson, and father, Roy Robinson, of Hallsville, Texas; her big sister, Amber LeAnn Robinson; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Robinson



Happy birthday, Heather Linn

Johanson Watson would like to wish his daughter, Heather Carol (Schutt) Linn, a happy 24th birthday on September 17.

Happy birthday

Gregory Allison turned 11 years old on September 11 and Breanna





Allison turned 10 on August 26. Happy birthday! Love, Mom and Dad, Stephanie and Greg.

Look who's turning two!

Tyler, Ember and Cole would like to wish their brother a happy birthday. Elijah Dean Gipson will celebrate his second birthday on August 22. Elijah is the son of Robert and Michelle Gipson of Wright City, Oklahoma. He is the grandson of Sharon Gipson of

Wright City, Oklahoma and Todd and Kim Marable of Broken Bow, Oklahoma. All of Elijah's aunts, uncles and cousins would like to wish him a happy birthday.

Tyler, Ember, Elijah and Cole would like to wish their aunts a happy birthday. Aunt Melissa celebrated her birthday on August 10 and Aunt Melinda celebrated her birthday on August 29.

Dylan celebrates first birthday

Dylan celebrated his first birthday July 7 with family and friends. He is the son of Kevin and Elizabeth Garcia and brother of Trevor and Amber of Hillsboro, Oregon. Joining in the celebration were grandparents, Paula Hughes with friend, Danny Brunk, of Cornelius, Oregon, Sam Ashenberner and wife, Dolores, of Beaverton, Oregon,

and Stan and Nancy Spring-Garcia of Hanford, California. Dylan descends from the Spring and Oakes families of Hugo, Oklahoma.

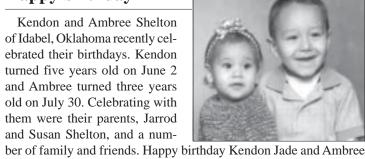
Austin turns three

Caleb and Logan would like to wish their brother, Austin Sullivan, a happy third birthday on August 22. Austin loves cars, choo choo trains and to play outside. His grandparents are the Rev. Floyd and Nancy Peters of Antlers, Oklahoma and Dale and Lois Sullivan

of Haworth, Oklahoma. He has several aunts, uncles and cousins. The boys would also like to wish their mother a happy birthday on August 10. A birthday wish also goes out to Girlie Battiest from the Sullivan family.

Happy birthday

Kendon and Ambree Shelton of Idabel, Oklahoma recently celebrated their birthdays. Kendon turned five years old on June 2 and Ambree turned three years old on July 30. Celebrating with them were their parents, Jarrod and Susan Shelton, and a num-



Belated wishes for a happy birthday are sent to Cody Jay Ornelas (top photo) who turned ten on June 16 and Christian James Ornelas who turned seven on June 3. Cody is entering the fifth grade and Christian will enter second grade at Grace Russell Elementary School. The boys spent the summer swimming, playing and visiting family on trips to Grants, New Mexico and Houston, Texas. Cody en-

Happy birthday!





tian enjoys watching cartoons such as Spongebob Squarepants. Their mother is Jayna Noley and Grandpa and Granny are James and Joyce Noley of Wilburton, Oklahoma. Their father is Kevin Ornelas and

Happy 88th

Tillie (Ward) Cundiff was born July 7, 1915. She celebrated her 88th birthday on July 13 with loving family at the home of her granddaugh-

Tillie is the daughter of tage. She worked as historian

for the Dallas Council of Choctaws during the 1970s. She is pictured

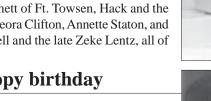
Margo turns one

Margo Jada Tom celebrated her first birthday on August 23. She is the daughter of Jimmy and Betty and sister of Joey, Jared and Genny Tom, all of Broken Bow.

Grandparents are Robert and Melissa Bohanan of Bethel, Oklahoma and the late Albert and Genese Tom.

Happy birthday!

Emily Morris had her first birthday Hugo.



Neville, Jr. is the son of Neville Meashintubby and Brandi Adkins of Talihina, Oklahoma. His grandparents are MaryLou and the late Norman Meashintubby, Jr. of Talihina, Oklahoma and Mark and Silvia Adkins of McAlester, Oklahoma. Great-grandparents are the late Lana Meashintubby of Honobia, Oklahoma and the late Norman and Reba Meashintubby of Talihina.

Belated wishes

Lucretia Ann Chapman of Ozark, Arkansas turned 31 years old on July 14. Lucretia is the daughter of Evangeline Meashintubby of Atoka, Oklahoma.

Happy birthday from the family!

Happy 29th birthday

Herman Meashintubby turned 29 years old on June 1. He is the son of Evangeline Meashintubby of Atoka, Oklahoma. Happy birthday from the family.

Happy birthday to both of you

Shirley Anna Meashintubby of Fort Smith, Arkansas on August 3.

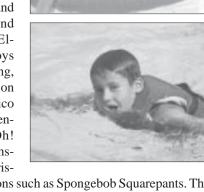
out to Archie Meashintubby on July 19

Happy birthday to both of you.

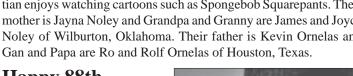


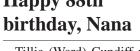
Justin starts kindergarten

five-year-old, is starting kindergarten. He reads on a second grade level and is learning two languages, Japanese and



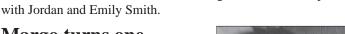






ter, Tira Farlow.

Robert Jones Ward who was the son of Jeremiah and Eliza (Leflore) Ward. She is very proud of her Choctaw heri-



Emily turns one

on June 12. She celebrated her birthday at home with a pink and yellow flower theme. Joining Emily for the festivities were her many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Her parents are Justin and Beckie Morris of Hugo, Oklahoma. Her grandparents are Ronnie and Debbie Morris and Jayson and Lynda Staton, all of Hugo. Her great-grandparents are Jack and Shirley Grimmett of Ft. Towsen, Hack and the late Cleora Clifton, Annette Staton, and DruNell and the late Zeke Lentz, all of

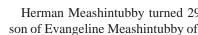


Happy birthday

Neville Meashintubby, Jr. would like to wish his dad a happy birthday on August 4, his Aunt Shirley Trejo and Great-aunt Sue Meashintubby on August 3, and his Uncle Nathan on August 24. He would also like to wish belated happy birthdays to his Uncle Norval on June 13, Uncle Norris on June 17 and his Great-uncle Archie Meashintubby on July 19.







Happy birthday wishes go out to Norma Sue Meashintubby and

Birthday wishes

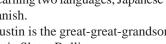
Happy belated birthday wishes go and also to Donna Kaye.

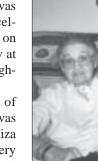




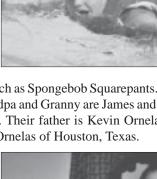
Spanish.



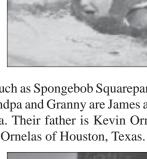


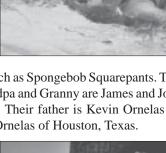


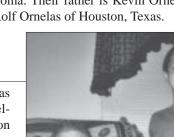






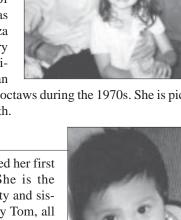






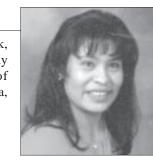








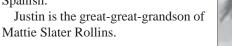






Justin Tyler Abraham, a very bright





Five generations

Congratulations to five generations in Spokane, Washington - Betty King and Valerie Johnston, standing, and Bessie King, Robbie Johnston and Saben Johnston. Bessie's mother, Maisie Bessie Tubbee Sewell, was an original enrollee.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday Risky Business Extreme Bullfighter, Sebastion Rokk Jacob. He turns seven on September 25. We love you! - Mom, Haileigh, Grandma, PaPa and Uncle of Valliant, Oklahoma.



Band Princess

Elissa Renee Holder, a student at Anadarko Middle School, was selected as the Freshman Band Princess 2003-04. She has been a member of the band program for three years and was selected to attend Tri-State this year. She is a member of the Anadarko Middle School bas-



ketball team, the tennis team and selected as a student council representative. Elissa also received an Academic Award from the Anadarko School's Indian Education Program. She was also nominated to the U.S. Achievement Academy and has been named a U.S. National award winner in English. Elissa has been a member of the Kitikiti'sh (Wichita) Little Sisters, an organization for Native American girls and has served as the organization's princess for the 2002-03 term.

She is the 14-year-old daughter of Mitchell and Victoria Holder of Anadarko and the granddaughter of Paula Eyachabbe of Oklahoma City. Great-grandparents include the late Jowick and Fannie Tonihka of Broken Bow and the late Rufus and Mary Eyachabbe of Antlers.

Congratulations Elissa. We are proud of all you have accomplished. Love, Mom, Dad, Marissa, Bubba, Granny and all your aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

District 13 Commander

The American Legion Department of Texas held its 85th anniversary celebration on July 9-13 in Lubbock. The highlight of the convention was the nominations and elections of leaders for the upcoming term. There are 23 districts in Texas with over 87,000 members. One proud Choctaw, SGM E9 Harold



L. McAlvain, retired, was appointed as the District 13 Commander for 2003-05. McAlvain, formerly of Oologah, Oklahoma, now residing in Nocona, Texas, completed and retired after 33 years service in the Armed Forces.

Congratulations, Kyla

Kyla Taylor graduated from Dora Reed Center on June 26 and will be entering kindergarten at Cherokee Elementary School in Cherokee, North Carolina.

Her proud parents, Ned and Geneva Taylor, sister, brothers and Granny Dolly Taylor, all of Cherokee, are proud of her. Congratulations and we love you!



Happy 30th anniversary

Happy anniversary to Larry and Regina McKinney of Tacoma, Washington who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on July 21, 2003. May God continue to bless your lives



and enrich your marriage. We love you both. Wishing you continued happiness are Natosha, Matteo, Blaine, Stephanie, Victoria, Joel, Ben, Anna and Isaac.

Whites celebrate 62nd

Albert and Nancy White celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on July 26, 2003. They were married in Dyer, Arkansas by Church of Christ minister B.F. England. Their married life was spent mostly in California, then



in Kansas City, Missouri, before moving to Greenwood, Arkansas

Mr. White is a member of the Choctaw Nation. His great-grandmother, grandmother and mother were all original enrollees. He was employed in aircraft work for many years, retiring from TWA Airlines in St. Louis, Missouri.

The couple have two children, the late Albert Lee White, Jr., and Lynda A. Kropf and Joe Kropf of Gainesville, Texas. They have two grandchildren, Lean Madoux of Bethany, Oklahoma and Darin Kropf of Gainesville, and one great-grandson, Dylan Madoux of Bethany.

Wedding bells

Congratulations to Wendy Bohanon and Kenny Frazier on their marriage on August 2, 2003 at Paris, Texas. Wendy is the daughter of Willard Bohanon of Ada, Oklahoma and Mary Sue and Phillip Sikes of Paris. She is the granddaughter of the late Isaac and Lula Bohanon of Paris and



the late Norma Ballard. Kenny is the son of Elm and Vida Frazier of Paris.

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.

Ellis receives Gold Award

Karen Anne Ellis, pictured here with her grandmother, Elizabeth Ellis of Hugo, Oklahoma, has been awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award for her outstanding achievements. The Gold Award is the highest honor bestowed on a girl scout. To receive the Girl Scout Gold Award,

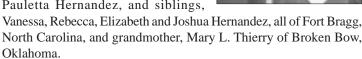


50 hours must be dedicated to developing and implementing a project that has a positive, lasting impact on the community. Karen's project was a "Stars and Stripes Lock In" for the junior girl scouts. The girls learned how to fold a flag, practiced the Pledge of Allegiance in sign language, decorated T-shirts and enjoyed a guest speaker.

Karen is the daughter of Jim and Melody Ellis and a member of Girl Scout Troop #204 of Utica, Nebraska.

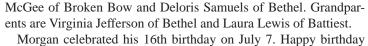
Happy 18th, Valedictorian

The family of Joseph G. Hernandez would like to wish him a very happy 18th birthday and congratulate him on his outstanding academic accomplishments, along with graduating at the top of his class. We wish you the very best as you continue your life's journey at Wingate University. We've been so blessed to have the privilege to have you in our lives. May God bless you, Joseph, and may you continue to strive for the very best in your life endeavors. Love, Mom and Dad, Gabriel and Pauletta Hernandez, and siblings,



All-American Scholar

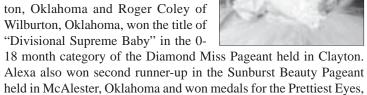
The U.S. Achievement Academy has announced that Morgan McGee of Bethel, Oklahoma has been named an All-American Scholar. Morgan, who attends school at Battiest, Oklahoma, will appear in the All-American Scholar Yearbook, which is published nationally. He is the son of Michael



ents are Virginia Jefferson of Bethel and Laura Lewis of Battiest. and congratulations, Morgan!

Little Diamond Miss Pageant

Alexa Jo Coley, 11-month-old daughter of Talena Womack of Clayton, Oklahoma and Roger Coley of Wilburton, Oklahoma, won the title of "Divisional Supreme Baby" in the 0-

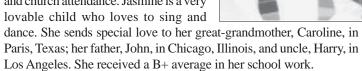


Alexa is one-half Choctaw. She is the granddaughter of Rocky and Cheryl Burleson of Clayton, Mike Womack of Nashoba and Joe and Mary Coley of Wilburton. Way to go Alexa!

Prettiest Hair, Prettiest Smile, and Best Personality in the Sunburst

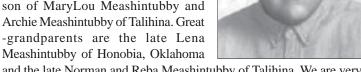
Graduation day

Jasmine McCarty recently graduated from Miracle Baptist Church school where she was the lead singer for the class song and also recited the numbers from 1 to 100. She received certificates for citizenship, attendance, social attitude and church attendance. Jasmine is a very lovable child who loves to sing and



Talihina graduate

Congratulations to Meashintubby, Jr. on his graduation from Talihina High School. His plans are to attend OSU Okmulgee this fall. He is the son of MaryLou Meashintubby and Archie Meashintubby of Talihina. Great -grandparents are the late Lena



and the late Norman and Reba Meashintubby of Talihina. We are very proud of you. May God be with you from all of your family.

Pilkinton, Voyles wed

Ruthie Michelle Pilkinton and Michael Everett Voyles were married June 21, 2003 at their residence in Copper Center, Alaska. Ruthie is the daughter of Charles Pilkinton, Jr. of Durant, Oklahoma and Mary Patterson of



Aubrey, Texas. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and very proud of her heritage. Michael is an Alaskan Native of the Copper River Region called Ahtna. They plan to continue living in Alaska and raising their daughter, Mary Alise Patterson.

Underwoods celebrate Golden Anniversary

Vernon and Carolyn Underwood celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, May 17, 2003. Their children, Mark Underwood and Marie Bush, and their grandchildren,



Jennifer Deering, Luke Underwood, Carrie Bush and Callie Bush, hosted a reception at the Underwood home in Wilburton, Oklahoma. Approximately 125 friends and family dropped by to share in this special event. Vernon and Carolyn are Choctaw Senior Citizens at the Wilburton Choctaw Center where Carolyn serves on the senior citizens committee.

Pauls Valley Panthers

These three Sulphur members of the Pauls Valley Panthers recently placed fifth at the USSA National Baseball Tournament, held July 15-20 in Over-

land Park, Kansas. The team, including 12-year-old Choctaws Lance Wallace, Tony Colungo and Chance



Wallace, played teams from Arkansas, Nebraska and Missouri, among others in the single game elimination tournament. They lost the final game Saturday, July 18, in double overtime. Also pictured is Coach Antoine Colungo, who is also Choctaw.

Wright City Valedictorian

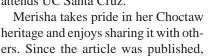
Carrie Bush graduated from Wright City High School with honors. She is the daughter of Mark Bush of Garvin, Oklahoma and Marie Bush of Cornelia, Georgia. Carrie received a four-year scholarship to Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant and will be pursuing a degree in the



Carrie's achievements and honors during her high school career include Honor Society (four years), Junior Class President, Senior Class President, Student Council member, Wisdom Club member, Spansih Club, Miss Wright City (2003), first place in curriculum contest (2002-2003), co-basketball captain and co-cheerleading captain and valedictorian. Grandparents are Choctaw Senior Citizens Vernon and Carolyn Underwood of Wilburton and Joe and Holly Bush of Locksberg, Arkansas.

Former California Jr. Princess featured in newspaper article

Merisha Lemmer, 16, Junior Choctaw Princess of California's Okla Chahta Clan in 2001-02 and 2002-03, was recently featured in the Press Democrat newspaper. A student at El Molino High School, Merisha lives in Camp Meeker with her mother, Amy, and her father, Dave. Her brother, Tyler, attends UC Santa Cruz.



Merisha has been invited as a guest speaker at several programs.

A passionate artist, she's a painter and a sculptor. She has the wonderful opportunity of attending Oxbow School in Napa, California where she will live for a semester while taking classes in a variety of art techniques. Merisha has received some financial aid and is working to earn the remaining tuition for the prestigious art school. She is hoping the school will give her a competitive advantage when applying for college, another step in realizing her dream of earning a living by selling her art.

Miller joins Wilson PD

Shay Allen Miller graduated from the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Academy in Oklahoma City on March 5. Officer Miller is employed by the Wilson Police Department. He is the son of Evelyn Rose Miller of Lone Grove and the late Gary Don Miller. He is the grandson of Lula Parker of Lone Grove.



Class Salutatorian

Jennifer Heck was salutatorian of her senior class at Stonewall High School. She was also the salutatorian of her freshman class and won the Masonic Student of Today Award. She was voted Miss SHS by her class and has been a member of the National and Oklahoma Honor Societies and Gifted and Talented all



during high school. She was Student of the Year, participated in Girls' State, and won the American Legion Americanism Award and the Army Outstanding National Scholar Athlete Award. Jennifer was Vice President of FFA, FBLA and her senior class. In FFA she has won numerous Grand Champions with her lamb and was awarded the State FFA Degree. She was also captain of the Lady Longhorn Basketball and Softball Teams. She won Basketball Defensive Player of the Year in basketball two years in a row and was SHS Basketball Queen. She made the Indian All-State Team, All-State Girls Basketball Alternate, OK All-State Softball Team, and recently made history being a member of the first team to qualify to go to the State Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament. Jennifer attends Coalgate First Baptist Church and is the daughter of Kenny and Shonda Denson and Randy Heck.

Emily turns two!

Emily Elizabeth McClaughry turned two years old on August 8. Her parents and grandparents wish her a happy birthday. She is the daughter of Kevin and Andrea McClaughry of Portland, Oregon. Her grandparents are William and Judith Freeman and Patrick and Carolyn McClaughry of Salem, Or-



Happy birthday

Wishes for a happy birthday are sent to John Airington and Bob and Rita Airington, all of Woodward, Okla-





homa. John celebrated his birthday on August 28, Bob on September 14 and Rita on 18th. Happy birthday from all of your family!

Quilt to hang on display at Wheelock



A beautiful quilt, handstitched by girls at Wheelock Academy in the late 1940s or early 1950s, will soon be hanging on display at the former mission and girl's school near Millerton, Oklahoma.

If anyone remembers working on the quilt or has any other information about it, please call Barbara Asbill at 580-746-2139. The historical site is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Pictured holding the quilt are Barbara Asbill, Regina Green and Tiffani Davis.

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services to hold Wills Clinic

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services will be providing a free Wills Clinic from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. October 7 at the Choctaw Nation Field Office in Idabel and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. October 9 at the Choctaw Nation Tribal Complex in Durant.

Attorneys Stephanie Hudson and Kim Bump and Paralegal Gregg Lewis will be on hand to as-

sist tribal members with their will preparation. Interested parties need to bring any documentation, including deeds and/or court documents they feel will assist the attorneys in preparing a will.

For more information, please call Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, toll-free in state, at 1-800-658-1497.

Silver Star



On August 18, 2003 the family of Jerod Dennis was presented the Army's Silver Star for his display of valor and courage during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Jerod, a Choctaw soldier from Antlers, Oklahoma, was killed in action on April 25, 2003 while in Afghanistan. Family members at the ceremony included Jerod's dad, Jerry Dennis; mom, Jane Dennis, and sister, Jillian Dennis.

CHOCTAW NATION BOOK STORE

PO Box 668, Durant, OK 74702 1-888-932-9199

The Choctaw of Oklahoma



Dr. James Milligan completed "The Choctaw of Oklahoma" after years of writing and a lifetime of love of researching the Choctaw. "The Choctaw of Oklahoma" presents the cultural values, customs, and an inner will of the Choctaw to live in spite of disturbing truths of violence and injustice. The 400-page book spans centuries of struggles and challenges of

a people who always come back more resilient and prosperous than before their misfortune.

 \$30.00 each "The Choctaw of Oklahoma"
 Number of books ordered
\$ Sub-total
\$ Add shipping price of \$6.00 for each book ordered
\$ TOTAL PRICE

Choctaw Nation Children's Books



Card number

Signature

Choctaw Nation children's books contain entertaining stories and historical information on the Choctaw culture. Each book is written by Mary M. Frye, illustrated by Norma Howard and translated by Henry Willis.

The characters will be featured in all five of the children's books – Grandmother, eight-

year-old Serena, six-year-old Push and their collie dog, Partner. All stories contain two parts. The first part of the story is written in the Choctaw Language and then the second part of the book is written in the English Language. The books are hardcover. The first 1,000 of each series are numbered.

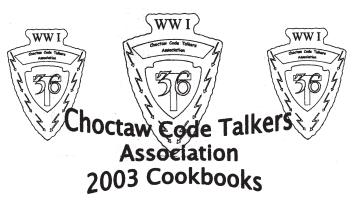
_\$20.00 each "The Pashofa Pole"

\$20.00 each "The Boy Who Almost Lost His Name"				
\$20.00 each "Choctaw Jack"				
\$20.00 each "The Stomachache Tree"				
\$20.00 each "Push and Indian Time" "Push and Indian Time," the last in the series of five books, will be out July 15, 2003. Reserve your copy today by calling our toll-free number 1-888-932-9199 or send check or money order to Choctaw Nation Book Store, P.O. Box 668, Durant, OK 74702.				
Number of books ordered				
Sub-total				
Add shipping price of \$4.95 for each book ordered				
TOTAL PRICE				
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If paying by credit card, please complete the following information:				
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Type of card(VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover)				
Expiration date on card				



Code Talker Association members awarded

Evangeline Wilson, left, presents certificates of appreciation to Code Talker descendants Rita Frazier McMillan and Teewanna Edwards for representing the Code Talker Association at an event in Virginia.



The Choctaw Code Talkers Association 2003 Cookbooks were displayed and sold at the Choctaw Labor Day Festival in Tuskahoma, Oklahoma, on Saturday, August 30, 2003. If you were unable to attend the festival and want to purchase a cookbook, please complete the following information and send a \$10.50 check or money order (includes shipping and handling) to the address listed below.

below.	
Name	
Address	
City	
State	_Zip
Telephone number	
Mail your check or money order to:	
Anella L. Garcia 4712 NW 90th Terrace	Thank you for your order and

for your recipes!



Winning poet

Kansas City, MO 64154

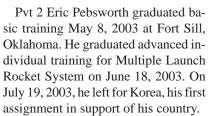
(816) 420-0424

agarcia63@hotmail.com

Chief Gregory E. Pyle congratulates Brenda Ivie on her recent accomplishment of winning a competition at Walt Disney World for her poem, "The Good Father." A medallion and a trophy for "Shakespearean Trophy of Excellence" were presented to Ms. Ivie by the Famous Poet Society for 2003. Her winning poem will be published in a collection in the coming year. Previously published works by Ms. Ivie include poems in collections from 1995 and 1998, and a novel, "Night of the Wolf," printed in 2002. Ms. Ivie has been an employee of the Choctaw Nation Head Start program since 1998.

STANDING TALL

Pvt 2 Eric Pebsworth



Eric, 19, is the grandson of Roy and Madeline Pebsworth of Hugo, Oklahoma and the son of Michael and Linda Pebsworth of Wasilla, Alaska. We are very proud of Eric and ask prayers for his safety.



Rusty Beene

Rusty Beene of Valliant, Oklahoma is one of several local servicemen serving in Iraq.

Rusty, 27, is a member of the U.S. Army 1st Calvary Division and a graduate of Valliant High School. His wife is Lorry Beene and he is the son of Tim and Beverly Stuart of Valliant and Bob and Cherie Beene of Swink, Oklahoma. Rusty's grandparents are Buddy and Mildred Stuart of Millerton, Oklahoma, Gwen Beene of Swink and



the late Ernest Beene, and Douglas and Nelda Sherrell of Florida. Gladys Sherrell of Chandler, Oklahoma is his great-grandmother.

Rusty was pictured in the June 9 edition of Time Magazine while he and fellow soldiers helped control a crowd in Baghdad. The photo accompanied an article on the post-war violence in Iraq and the dangers American servicemen and women face there on a daily basis.



Traveling far

Sorth and David Thompson of Anchorage, Alaska, pictured above, travelled the longest distance to attend the Labor Day Festival.

Ruth Frazier McMillan traveled from the state of Washington, the second-longest distance to the festival.



Quilt Show

Spectators enjoy the quilt show, held annually during the Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival at Tushka Homma. First place winners this year are Mary Lou Sherrod of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Merline Planer of Durant, Oklahoma.

Healthy Living Painting Contest

Dinah Redmon of Gainesville, Texas is the winner of the Labor Day Festival's Healthy Living Painting Contest. Congratulations!



Sr. Miss Division winners are Stephanie Horn, District 9, first runner-up; Nicole Billy, District 2, Miss Choctaw Nation, and Jennifer Carshall, District 4, second runner-up.



Jr. Miss Division winners are Leandra Morgan, District 12, second runnerup; Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation Dayla Amos, District 2, and Sissy Caldwell, District 7, first runner-up.

District Princesses compete for title of Miss Choctaw Nation

Several young ladies from all over the Choctaw Nation competed for the titles of Sr., Jr. and Little Miss Choctaw Nation, representing

their district during the Princess Pageant at the annual Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival at Tushka Homma.

All contestants are judged on interview, personality, tradi-



tional Choctaw dress, traditional Choctaw accessories, beauty and poise.

The Senior and Junior Miss contestants are also judged on the cat-

egories of traditional talent and goals as princess.

The judges for this year's pageant were Nanette Wylie, Gwen Takes Horse, Melissa Stevens and Deborah Ross.



Little Miss Division winners are Raven Ott, District 12, second runner-up; Little Miss Choctaw Nation Morgan Steve, District 9, and Wendy Taylor, District 2, first runner-up.



NICOLE BILLY SR. MISS DISTRICT 2



JENNIFER CARSHALL



HEATHER BAKER SR. MISS DISTRICT 6



MATILDA TAYLOR SR. MISS DISTRICT 7



COURTNEY BAKER SR. MISS DISTRICT 8



STEPHANIE HORN SR. MISS DISTRICT 9



EMILY ROWTON SR. MISS DISTRICT 10



ELIZABETH WRIGHT SR. MISS DISTRICT 11



CHEYANNE CAGLE SR. MISS DISTRICT 12



KIMBERLY HOBBS JR. MISS DISTRICT 1



JESSICA COLWELL JR. MISS DISTRICT 4



ALLISON PATTON JR. MISS DISTRICT 5



SISSY CALDWELL JR. MISS DISTRICT 7



RACHEL BOYKIN JR. MISS DISTRICT 8



SARAH FOLSOM JR. MISS DISTRICT 9



JR. MISS DISTRICT 10



STEVIE HECK JR. MISS DISTRICT 11







LITTLE MISS DISTRICT 1 LITTLE MISS DISTRICT 2



AMBER COLWELL LITTLE MISS DISTRICT 4



JENNIFER McGUIRE













RAVEN OTT LITTLE MISS DISTRICT 5 LITTLE MISS DISTRICT 7 LITTLE MISS DISTRICT 8 LITTLE MISS DISTRICT 9 LITTLE MISS DISTRICT 10 LITTLE MISS DISTRICT 11 LITTLE MISS DISTRICT 12

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First-place Men's Doubles in Horseshoe Pitching: Bobby Harjo and Sam Beaver, both of Okemah, Oklahoma.



Second-place Men's Doubles in Horseshoe Pitching: Bailey Walker of Ada, Oklahoma and Bunky Impson of Gerty, Oklahoma.



Third-place Men's Doubles in Horseshoe Pitching: Charlie Siler of Bengal, Oklahoma and Bill Reddin of LeFlore, Oklahoma.



Men's Singles in Horseshoe Pitching: Bailey Walker of Ada, Oklahoma, second; John Cummins of McAlester, Oklahoma, first, and Bobby Harjo of Okemah, Oklahoma, third.



Ringer Champion: Tony Nichols of Hatfield, Arkansas.



Women's Singles in Horseshoe Pitching: Ruby Long of Ada, Oklahoma, second; Phyllis Bohanan of Rattan, Oklahoma, first, and Laurie Medford of Moyers, Oklahoma third.



First-place Women's Doubles in Horseshoe Pitching: Ava Hilton of Tushka Homma, Oklahoma and Phyllis Bohanan of Rattan, Oklahoma.



Second-place Women's Doubles in Horseshoe Pitching: Ruby Long of Ada, Oklahoma and Claudia Hodge of Wilburton, Oklahoma.



Third-place Women's Doubles in Horseshoe Pitching: Kathy Garrett of Talihina, Oklahoma and Laurie Bedford of Moyers, Oklahoma.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle congratulates the overall winners of the 5-K run – Cade Lambert, 17.39, and Anna Hallond, 21.10, both of Mena, Arkansas.



Checkers champs: Tom Williams of Boswell, Oklahoma, first place, and Sylvester Moore of Talihina, Oklahoma, second place.



Domino champs: Stephanie Jones of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, first place, and Rodney Tehauno of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, second place.



Winning the terrapin races in the 4- to 7-year-old category are Joseph Thompson of Hugo, third; Blade Strange of Moyers, first, and Tanner Gardner of Union City, second.



Proud of their terrapins are Jackie Hubbard of Ada, first; Tanner Duncan of Tuskahoma, second, and Tyler Gardner of Union City, third, in the 8-12 age group



Devin Emert of Bennington has the best-dressed terrapin in the 0-3 category.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle presents a medallion to Rose Page of Antlers, Oklahoma, the oldest person attending Monday's festivities.



Morgan Spray of Midlothian, Texas, held by mom Stephanie, won second and Devin Emert of Bennington won third in the 0-3 division of the terrapin race.



James Vazques of Calera has the fastest terrapin in the 0-3 group.



Jace Ford of Stigler won bestdressed terrapin in the 4-7 category.



rapin in the 8-12 division belonged to Sara Thompson of Hugo.



Door prize winner Rita Jessie of Broken Bow, Oklahoma drove home with a brand new Chevrolet Silverado.



First-place volleyball tournament winners are Yardeka of Henryetta, Oklahoma.



Second-place volleyball tournament winners are Feathers of Castle, Oklahoma.



Tough Choctaws are Fighting Heart winner Ricky Willis, Philadelphia, Mississippi; Honorable Mention Todd Morgan, Ardmore, and Tough Choctaw Brother Ridge, Tulsa.



First-place golf tournament winners are Jack Folsum, Mike Skinner, Marvin Montgomery and Stan Coleman.



Second-place golf tournament winners are Tony Frazier, Evert Cannady, Floyd White Eagle and Larry Sockey.



Third-place golf tournament winners are Brian Hoff, Nate Cox, Jason Williston, Randa Hughes and Cecil Brown.



Little Man Slam Dunk Contest: First place: Allen Clay; second, Melvin Carney; third, Ben Bacon.



Men's 3-Point Shootout: First place: Kerry Voice; second, Michael Clay.



Women's 3-Point Shootout: First place: Lari Ann Brister; second, Terra Ellis.



Free Throw, 6-9 Division; First place: Cade Clay; second, Tanner Gwin; third, Kannon Dry.



War Hoops Free Throw 15-18 – First place: Daniel Stingley; second, Eric Delay; third, Steven Richardson.



War Hoops Free Throw, 10-14 – First place: Anthony Whitfield; second, Curtis John; third, Karissa Ellis.



War Hoops Co-ed 10-14 – First place: Wright City - Neal Wesley, Justin Steers, Michall Noah, Catherine James.



War Hoops Co-ed 10-14 – Second place: Hartshorne - Colton Baker, Bryce Killingsworth, Joey Barnhill, Siah Densim.



War Hoops Girls 15-18 – First place: Nuttin But Net - Britany Casey, Kayla Phillips, Tiffany Jewell, Misty Wood.



War Hoops Girls 15-18 – Second place: Misfits - Kim Phelps, Tessa Dill, Chrystal Smith, Desireé Snyder.



War Hoops Boys 15-18 – First place: Himitas - Dude Billy, Jeremiah Billy, Adrian Walls, Lance Ringatero.



War Hoops Boys 15-18 – Second place: Regulators - Chris Thomas, Jeremy Taylor, Chay James, John Taylor.



War Hoops Boys 15-18 – Third place: Red Hoops - Trev Jimboy, Jordan Parnacher, Jimmy Joe Thomas, James Poe.



War Hoops Men 18-35 – First place: No Game - Shawn Runyen, Brandon White Eagle, Adam Gibson, Randy Gibson.



War Hoops Men 18-35 – Second place: Team Nike - Dallen Burris, Michael Clay, Allen Clay, Don Tsosie.



War Hoops Men 18-35 – Third place: Stringtown - Michael Guest, Jeremy Chaffin, Greg Foster, Chris Frazier.



War Hoops Men 36 & over – First place: Rigamortis - Kenneth Clay, Chuck Madbull, Roland Branton, Ronnie Scroggins.



War Hoops Men 36 & over – Second place: Mississippi Chatas - Ralph Isaac, Herman Smith, Terry Steve, Vandall Vaught.



Men's fastpitch – First,
Next of Kin, pictured; second,
Green Jackets;
third, Giants;
fourth, Southeast Choctaws.
Women's – First,
Fus-Cate; second, Chatas;
third, Shockley's
Country Gals.



OBITUARIES



Barbara Jean Carnes

Barbara Jean Carnes, 52, of Cartwright, Oklahoma passed away Monday, August 4, 2003 at Texoma Medical Center in Denison, Texas. She was born Wednesday, February 7, 1951 in Lane, Oklahoma to Allen and Mary (Tikubie) Carnes.

Barbara attended Victory Life Church. She was employed as a truck driver and for the last three years worked as a secretary for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Elizabeth Allen and Mildred Webb, and brother, Ben Carnes, Jr.

Survivors include sons, Kenneth Fults of Rockwall, Texas and Joe Fults of Cartwright; sisters, Tina Fields of Cartwright, Mary Bully and Virginia Bully, both of Durant, and Shirley Duran of Boyd, Texas; grandchildren, Roni Lynn Fults and Justin Monroe Fults, both of Rockwall, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Oscar Folsom, Jr.

LCDR Oscar Folsom, Jr., USN retired, 81, of Norman, Oklahoma passed away Wednesday, August 6. He was born June 29, 1922 in Caney, Oklahoma to Oscar Folsom, Sr. and Blanche Ballard Folsom.

Oscar graduated from Atoka High School in May 1940. He then attended Murray State School of Agriculture, Tishomingo, Oklahoma, from September 1940 to June 1942. After a career in the U.S. Navy, August 1942 to May 1963, he attended the University of



Oklahoma, Norman, from January 1964 to January 1966. He retired from the Navy with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After his service in the Navy, he completed his education at the University of Oklahoma receiving a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree with a specialization in mathematics.

During Oscar's naval career he received numerous commendations/ citations for meritorious acts while participating in aerial flights as a pilot of carrier based fighter planes in operations against the enemy. He flew off of numerous carriers and had approximately 500 carrier landings as a fighter pilot. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, the Korean War, and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

After completing his degree in education he taught mathematics and aerospace at Western Oaks Junior High School in the Putnam City School District for 20 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife, Laura Bryan Folsom of the home; one son, David Folsom and wife, Sharon, of Oklahoma City; one stepdaughter, Cynthia Blair Sarem-Aslani and husband, Hormoz, of Phoenix, Arizona; four stepgrandchildren, Bryan Sarem-Aslani and wife, Ashley, of Norman, Martina Sarem-Aslani Yoder and husband, Brandon, of Gilbert, Arizona, Laura Sakeen Sarem-Aslani and Nancy Sarem-Aslani of Phoenix; one step-great-grandson, Aiden Sarem-Aslani of Phoenix; four brothers, James O. Folsom and wife, Stella, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, John B. Folsom and wife, Marge, of Banning, California, William J. Folsom and wife, Nan, of Waynesboro, Virginia, and Charles H. Folsom and wife, Ruth Ann, of Shreveport, Louisiana; one sister, Mary Folsom Kyle and husband, Ted, of Woodward, Oklahoma, and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Rosalie LaVon, M.D., and her staff of Norman and Gayle Gondeck, case RN, and her team of Hospice by Loving Care of Noble, Oklahoma, for the wonderful care given Oscar during a long, extended illness with Parkinson's disease.

Bettye Sue Oxford

Bettye Sue Oxford, 69, of Durant, Oklahoma passed away Tuesday, July 29, 2003 at Texoma Medical Center in Denison, Texas. She was born Saturday, October 28, 1933 in Tye, Oklahoma, the daughter of Joe and Thelma Louise (Ervin) Threet.

Betty married Henry Clay Oxford on May 11, 1951 in Courtside, Arizona. She was a retired aero tech from Northup and a member of the First Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Oxford loved working jigsaw puzzles, word searches and traveling. She will be remembered most for the time she spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Henry Oxford, on June 2, 1992; son, Roy Dean Oxford; sisters, Billie Jo Threet and Estelle Masters, and granddaughter, Crystal Ann Oxford.

Survivors include sons, Jimmie Lee Oxford, Sr. and wife, Yolanda, and Kenneth Dale Oxford, all of Durant, Oklahoma; daughter, Barbara Ann Nagy and husband, John, of Durant; brother, Johnny Threet of Durant; grandsons, Bobby Kuykendall of Cass Lake, Minnesota and Jimmy Oxford, Andrew Oxford, Ian Oxford and Donavin Oxford, all of Durant; granddaughters, Valerie Stanley and husband, Vincent Wayne, of Calera, Oklahoma, Jennifer Brown of Reno, Nevada, Luvenia Nagy and Kimberly Oxford, both of Durant, Stephanie Oxford of Mozula, Montana, Janell Oxford of Bakersfield, California and Shenowa Kuykendall of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and greatgrandchildren, Aaron Abbott of Calera and Ashleigh Nagy of Durant.

Oberia "Dude" Morgan

Oberia "Dude" Morgan, 78, passed away January 6, 2003 at a Katy, Texas hospital. She was born on April 9, 1924 in Centrahoma, Oklahoma to George and Otha Thomas.

At the age of 16, Dude married W.E. "Billy" Morgan on September 9, 1944. The two celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary last September.

Dude's interest and involvement was extensive in the support of agricultural and rodeo activities for the youth of Katy. In addition to her support of the Katy FFA, she was committed to the Fort Bend County Fair Association for over 40 years.

Mrs. Morgan was very proud of her Choctaw Indian heritage, a pride which she was also able to instill within her children and grand-children. A devoted mother, she embraced any chance to support kids, and to many within the Katy area she was affectionately known as "Aunt Dude." Throughout her life, Dude was sustained by her strong love for the Lord. Dude and Billy worshipped at Katy Community Church. Her many interests included horses, rodeo, fishing, bowling, sewing and other crafts. She enjoyed an abundant life centered around her children and grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, Billy Morgan; children, Donna and Jerry Thames, Cindy and Carl James, and Sunny and John D. Allgater; grandchildren, Kyle and Aundrea Thames, Chad Thames, Guy Kmiec, Morgan Van Winkle, Lex Allgater, Kate James, Molly James and Hunter James; great-grandchild, Carolyn Isabell Barton; brothers, John Nell Morugold and Wesley and Mamye Jo Thomas; sister, Cora Lee and Jerry Davis; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Denny and Mona Ruth Morgan and Lawrence and Jean Ann Morgan; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and other loving family members and friends.

Hannah Denise McCarty

Hannah Denise McCarty, 16, of Oklahoma City passed away Tuesday, July 22, 2003. Her extraordinary life began August 14, 1986 when she was born at Carl Albert Indian Hospital in Ada, Oklahoma, the daughter of Jack and Pamela McCarty.

Hannah enjoyed kindergarten through fifth grade at Good Shepherd Lutheran School and sixth grade at Mid-Del Christian School. She earned many academic and fine arts awards, stayed on the honor roll and always had fun. The fun times and the work accelerated when she was accepted at

Classen School of Advanced Studies where she was a dance major in seventh through ninth grades and a drum major her sophomore year. She was looking forward to participating in the musical theater program in her junior year. She remained on the principal's honor roll while pursuing her dance and theater dreams, not only at Classen but also at private fine arts schools. She had many best friends, too numerous to list, who were like family to her.

Hannah took dance lessons since she was four years old and was skilled at tap, her favorite, and ballet, jazz, modern and Irish dancing. She also felt that God had called her to care for little children and planned to have a Hollywood daycare business as well as an acting career.

She and her parents are members of Church of the Harvest. Hannah had a close relationship with Jesus Christ and enjoyed volunteering in the children's ministry with the two- and three-year-olds as well as serving as a church greeter. She often smiled and welcomed people when she had little strength to stand. She never complained. She never gave up. Her life was threatened many times over the years but she stood on God's Word, and she never stopped dancing.

Survivors include her parents, Jack and Pamela McCarty, who adore her more than words can express; grandfather, Bernard McCarty; uncles, Vernon, Patrick and Steve McCarty and Clark, Shawn and Thane Mize; aunts, Carol Spinks, Linda Robinson, Candace Dudek and Heather Bellows; cousins, Joseph McCarty, Glenda Branch, Laura Hunter; Bethany, Ryan, Christopher, Robert and Stephanie McCarty; Hali VanWinkle, Dylan Hunter, Samantha and Lucas Mize, Blayne Cook, Amy Brewer; Sarah, Blake and Hope Bellows; Gabriel, Maya and Rowan Cook; Leah, Drew and Reese Brewer, and great-grandmother, Nettie Raleigh. Hannah will also be missed by her beloved cat, Ariel, and her incredible doctor, Merl Simmons.

She was preceded in death and escorted to Heaven by her cherished grandmother, Sylvia Mize McFall; her grandfather, Riley Mize, and great-grandfather, Jim Raleigh. Her grandmother, Margaret McCarty, followed her to Heaven on July 25, 2003. They are having quite a reunion at this time!

Annie Wilson

Annie Wilson, 92, of Yreka, California passed away June 16, 2003 at SunBridge Care Center in Weed, California. She was born September 22, 1910 in Durant, Oklahoma to Cora and Austin Burton. She was very proud of her Choctaw Indian heritage.

At the age of 19, she married Sam R. Wilson. She raised a daughter, a nephew and four orphaned children.

In 1937, Annie moved to Lakeview, Oregon. She moved to Vellejo, California in 1941 and then to Siskiyou County in 1946.

Mrs. Wilson was a charter member of the First Baptist Church of Yreka, where you could find her on any Sunday until her health prevented her from going. She was also a member of the Yreka chapter of the Eastern Star. She was a deeply spiritual woman. She taught Sunday School for 27 years in Yreka and was affectionately known to her students as the "gum lady." She loved growing flowers and brought some to church every Sunday to share.

Annie wrote many poems, some of which were read on the Christian radio station in Redding, California. She will be remembered for standing on her front porch and waving her flag at the passengers on the Blue Goose as it would go by her house.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Connie and Melvin Jones of Chico, California; nephew, Bob Burton of Lancaster, California; grandchildren, Julie Hemenway of Oroville, California and Philip Jones of Durham, California; great-grandchildren, Annie, Melisa and Maddie Hemenway of Chico and Audra and Austin Jones of Durham, and nieces, Linda Nelson of Big Springs, California and Sharon Graves of Yreka.

Annie was a special person to her family and friends and will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Lorma V. Montgomery

Lorma V. Montgomery, 98, of Tulsa, Oklahoma passed away Tuesday, August 5, 2003 at Tulsa. She was born July 26, 1905 in Fox, Indian Territory, the daughter of Calvin G. and Julia A. Powell Morris

Lorma was a homemaker. She had been a resident of Oklahoma all of her life with the majority of those years being spent in Lawton. Being born prior to statehood she became an original enrollee and was quite proud of her Choctaw ancestry. She attended the First Christian Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a daughter, JoAnne Payer, in April 2003.

Survivors include a daughter, Oteka N. Lund of Fairfax, Virginia; son, Wendell L. Zachary of Tulsa; sister, Frances Whitten of Duncan, Oklahoma; eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Bernice Bessie Anderson

Bernice Bessie Anderson, 72, of Sapulpa, Oklahoma passed away Tuesday, April 8, 2003 at Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was born March 20, 1931 at Haskell, Oklahoma, the daughter of Kilbert and Susan Johnson Franklin.

She attended Sequoyah High School at Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Bernice and Robert Anderson were married in April 1996 at Ballenger. She retired as a nurse's aid at the Tulsa Regional Medical Center in Tulsa.

She was a member of the Siloam Springs Methodist Church in Haskell County and also a member of the VFW women's auxiliary in Sand Springs. She enjoyed being with her family and the time she spent with her grandchildren. She also enjoyed riding in the car both locally and on long trips.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Anderson, of Sapulpa; two sons, Tommy Thompson and wife, Glenda, of Prue, and Herman Thompson and wife, Carol, of Bristow, Oklahoma; five daughters, Levetta Faye Sago and husband, Marvin, of Glenpool, Oklahoma, Loretta Perigo and husband, Gary, of Tulsa, Janie Rice and husband, Mitchell, of Tulsa, Elsie Lena and husband, Ronnie, of Sapulpa, and Sandra Kay Thompson of Ponca City, Oklahoma; 20 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Jeremiah Thompson; her second husband, James Leroy Brown; a son, Jeremiah Thompson, Jr., her parents, two brothers, one stepbrother, and one stepsister.

Phillip Bryan Ashmore

Phillip Bryan Ashmore passed away on June 12, 2003 in Oklahoma City in an automobile accident. He was born July 9, 1971 in Muskogee, Oklahoma, the youngest of Phillip Ashmore and Doris Hughes.

Bryan was a happy, affectionate and tenderhearted person who loved his family dearly. He liked pickup trucks, ball caps, OU football, country music, fishing and Grandma's cookies. He was very proud of his Choctaw heritage.

He was preceded in death by a son, Garrett Alan Ashmore in 1993. Survivors include his wife, Jaida, and two daughters, Morgan and Molly, of the home; father, Phillip Ashmore and wife, Kathy, of Glenpool; mother, Doris Hughes of Ft. Gibson; sisters, Ralana and husband, Frank Byrd, Jr., of Warner, Oklahoma, Vanessa Hughes of Ft. Gibson and Angela Ashmore of Glenpool, Oklahoma; brothers, Michael Ashmore and wife, Jacque, of Yukon, Oklahoma and Jeff Clark and wife, Meagan, of Oklahoma City; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Hershel Ashmore of Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Joe Torix of Ft. Gibson and Tom and Sammy Upton of Oklahoma City; great-grandmother, Mrs. Effie Clay of Muskogee; three nephews, five nieces, aunts, uncles and many, many friends.

Robert "Trouble" Lewis

Robert "Trouble" Lewis, 66, of Durant, Oklahoma passed away Tuesday, August 5, 2003 at Southern Pointe Living Center. He was born Wednesday, July 21, 1937 in Ardmore, Oklahoma to Edward and Lucy (Allen) Lewis

He married Bertha Jean White. He served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a member and service worker for the Choctaw Nation and a member of Grace Indian Baptist Church.



He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Lisa F. Lewis, and brothers, Allen Folsom, Raymond Lewis, James Tom and Samson

Survivors include his wife of the home; daughter, LacQuita Lewis of Ada, Oklahoma; sons, Leon Love of Platter, Oklahoma and Kenneth Lewis and wife, Dorothy, of Colbert, Oklahoma; sisters, Margaret Tenequer of Atoka, Oklahoma, Hilda Murphy of Dallas, Texas and Ruth Coley of Ardmore, Oklahoma; brother, Charles Lewis of Durant; 11 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, many other family members and friends.

Jackson Jesse James, Jr.

Jackson Jesse James, Jr., 62, of McAlester, Oklahoma passed away Thursday, March 20, 2003 at the VA hospital in Muskogee. He was born August 3, 1940 in Featherston, the son of Jackson Jesse, Sr. and Lizzie Pope James.

He grew up in the Quinton area, graduated from Quinton High School and took machinist classes at Kiamichi Technology Center.

He married Lucy Nanuk and retired from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years of service, where he received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Award.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Jacob James, George James, Noel Kemp and Jodus Kemp; four sisters, Clara James, Regina James, Serena Washington and Cora Carney, and a daughter-in-law, Leslie Kim Thompson.

Survivors include his wife, Lucy James, of the home; two sons, Richard James and Gregory James, both of McAlester; a daughter, Dawn McLaughlin of McAlester; three brothers, Jesse James of Shawnee, Oklahoma, Larry James of McAlester and Warren James of Tahlequah; four sisters, Rita Jordan of Kiowa, Oklahoma, Wanda Adkins of Stonewall, Oklahoma, Geniva Ellis of Haileyville, Oklahoma and Violet Woods of Blanco, Oklahoma; five grandchildren, Felicia James, Derek James, Trent Hawk McLaughlin, Alexia James and Emily Breeze McLaughlin; a special friend, Florence, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Virginia L. Huffman

Virginia L. Huffman, 60, of St. Charles, Missouri passed away August 4, 2003 at St. Joseph Health Center in St. Charles. She was born September 7, 1942 in Alamogordo, New Mexico, the daughter of James and Von Marie Atchley.

Virginia was an owner of Huffman Plumbing in O'Fallen, Missouri for ten years. She had been employed by Blackhurst Elementary School since 2001. She was a member of Oakridge Baptist Church in St. Peters, Missouri.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles A. Huffman; father, James Atchley, and sister, Jackie Skinner.

Survivors include her mother, Von Marie Atchley of Troy, Missouri; sons, Jeffrey S. Huffman and wife, Beth Ann, of Troy and Gregory A. Huffman and wife, Becky, of Jonesburg, Missouri; sisters, Pat Reinholz of St. Charles and Judy Roettger of Lake St. Louis, Missouri; brothers, Charles Atchley of Ballwin, Missouri, Russell Atchley of Troy and Gerald Atchley of San Antonio, Texas; five grand-children and many loving relatives and friends.

Sara Tyler

Sara Tyler, 57, of Stephenville, Texas passed away Saturday, July 26 at Lake Granbury Medical Center. She was born March 13, 1946.

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; one brother, Ralph Warren Tyler of DeQueen, Arkansas; and several nieces and nephews.

Sellman D. Brown

Sellman D. Brown, 82, of Wayne, Oklahoma passed away August 7, 2003. He was born April 3, 1921 in Sulphur, Oklahoma.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys (Thomas) Brown, of the home; two daughters, Brownell Brown and Gayla Flores; one son, Rhett Brown and his wife, Susan; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.