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# BISHINIK

The Official Publication of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

June 2010 Issue

Serving 199,835 Choctaws Worldwide

**Choctaws ... growing with pride, hope and success**

## Choctaws walk the trail again



By Lisa Reed

It was a walk of life as hundreds gathered May 15 for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's commemorative Trail of Tears Walk at Tushka Homma. Thoughts centered on the long walk of their ancestors as they embraced the opportunity to share the historical moment with their children and grandchildren.

Everyone had a chance to grab a bottle of water, an orange. Buses were ready to pick up those who felt they wouldn't be able to make it to the next hill.

The Choctaw who began the migration from Mississippi to Oklahoma 179 years ago weren't given choices for their comfort. Some traveled by boat, some by wagon, but many were forced to walk. They faced the coldest winter in history without proper clothing, without shoes. Shelter was inadequate and in most cases nonexistent; there was very little food.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has grown with the resilience inherited from those who survived.

"We were the original tribe to come over the Trail of Tears," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "We never forget that."

"I walked beside people in their 80s, some whose knees were bad, and some walking with canes. I met people from Tennessee, Texas, California," said Chief Pyle. "They came back to their roots. It's very important to have this walk, to spend time reflecting on where we came from."

It was a time to share the true meaning of fellowship.  
**See Walkers on Page 18**

## A time of rededication



Eugene Taylor



Presley Byington

Choctaw members represent tribe at ceremony at Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

By Larissa Copeland

Three members of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Terry Cole, Eugene Taylor and Presley Byington, were on hand May 19 as representatives from the tribe, along with members of the Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek) and Pawnee Nations of Oklahoma, and the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Nation of South Dakota, at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., for "A Time of Rededication and Story-Telling." They joined Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Reps. Jim McDermott (D-WA), Lois Capps (D-CA), and Mazie Hirono (D-HA), along with Robert Holden of the National Congress of the American Indian (NCAI) at the historic cemetery to honor the Native Americans who died at the nation's capitol while there in the service of their tribes.

The Congressional Cemetery serves as the final resting place for many of the leaders, lawmakers and government officials responsible for the shaping of the early government of the United States, as well as 36 Native Americans. Included in that count of Native Americans are two chiefs of the Choctaw Nation – Chief Peter Pitchlynn and Chief Pushmataha, who were honored at the rededication ceremony.

**See Ceremony on Page 13**

## Wright City celebrates new center

The Choctaw Nation celebrated the opening of the new Wright City Community Center on May 5.

"We are pleased to be here," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "This is a beautiful facility for area Choctaw to enjoy lunches, activities and community gatherings, and it was much needed in Wright City."

The 8,800-sq.-ft. building includes six offices, an exercise room, and two restrooms. It has an assembly space with seating for more than 200 people. Meals can be prepared and served from a state-of-the-art, full-scale commercial kitchen and a secondary, smaller kitchen area.

"We are so proud of the new community center and want to thank everyone involved in making this happen," said Councilman Jack Austin. "The architects and construction crews did a great job."



## Conference focuses on assisting crime victims

By Lisa Reed

Over 100 participants from 17 tribes and several government agencies attended the first-ever National Training and Skills-Based Conference hosted by a tribe for Tribal Victim Services and Faith-Based Victim Services in Indian Country.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma hosted the three-day event May 11-13 at its Conference Center in Durant. A special afternoon was spent in cultural immersion at the Choctaw Capitol Grounds, Tushka Homma.

"We are here today because of the love of our families," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle at the opening ceremony in Durant. "The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is family-based and community-based."

"We make money with six different tribal businesses with the goal of helping our Choctaws have a better life," he said.

Chief Pyle encouraged the audience, stressing that education is important. "It may take years to accomplish your goal, but you have to take it step by step. Enjoy your conference, make friends and share ideas."

Sanford C. Coats, U.S. Attorney for 40 counties in western Oklahoma, said that he has had the privilege of working with staff of victims services for many



Sanford C. Coats, U.S. Attorney, Western District of Oklahoma; Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Joye Frost, Acting Director of the U.S. Office for Victims of Crime.

years. He has been involved in several large cases including the high-profile Operation Stormy Nights, a child exploitation case in which 13 Oklahoma children were rescued.

Everyone at the conference is involved with helping victims, whether young or elderly, and it takes its toll on their health and emotions.

Coats explained that there isn't a quick fix of the issues faced every day. The important point is the chal-

lenges are being recognized and thereby addressed in a way they haven't been in years.

"What we deal with is very difficult," he added. "You must take time to take care of yourself as well."

Joye Frost, the Acting Director for the U.S. Office for Victims of Crime said the problems to be solved in Indian Country are very diverse, very complex.

"What has really struck me is the extraordinary people in the field," she said. "We are transforming our communities, working together in incredible partnerships."

The conference was open not only to staff of victims assistance programs but to support programs such as law enforcement and youth outreach.

"We need to find common ground to alleviate the suffering," said Pastor Rocky White Mountain. "We are here to figure out how to help victims of violence, to boost morale and to give each other hope."

"The Bible tells us that God helps us with our suffering so we can help others. Anyone who helps victims is a servant. Jesus Christ is our model," he said.

The conference continued with a bus trip to Tushka Homma where everyone heard a brief history of the Choctaw Nation, toured the grounds and the museum.

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### The Mission of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

To enhance the lives of all members through opportunities designed to develop healthy, successful and productive lifestyles.



The BISHINIK is printed on recycled paper.

## Conference goal is to make a difference in Indian Country

Continued from Page 1

and watched several cultural demonstrations.

On the menu for a special dinner were Choctaw banana, tanchi labona and pork, as well as fry bread, wild onions, grape dumpings and more.

The cultural experience built a foundation for the following two days of sessions and networking. Training was held on a variety of topics including Child Victimization in Indian Country, Cultural and Spiritual Services, and Responding to Elder Abuse.

The wide array of training and workshops served to concrete existing relationships and create a sense of teamwork that if all unite they will be able to make a difference.



Choctaw Nation is first tribe to hold a conference for Victim Services and Faith-Based Victim Services in Indian Country.

## Free seminar focuses on protecting art

The Indian Arts and Crafts Board (IACB), U.S. Department of the Interior, will host a free seminar, Promote and Protect Your Authentic Indian Art and Craftwork, on July 10 at the Choctaw Event Center in Durant. The seminar will highlight the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, trademarks, copyrights, patents, Internet marketing, and related business ideas that American Indian artists and artisans may use to promote and protect their traditional and contemporary creative works.

The seminars will serve as a platform for new marketing and promotional ideas and will provide a forum for participants to network and share their experiences, as well as their art and craftwork with other Indian artists. As the misrepresentation of art and craftwork as genuine Indian products continues to have devastating effects on Tribal economies nationwide, the focus of the seminars is also to raise the visibility of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act and other laws that protect the livelihoods and cultural heritage of Indian Tribes and their members.

The seminars are free, and open to the public.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Vonna Shults at 800-522-6170, Ext. 2347, or vonna@choctawnation.com.

The seminar will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Center located at 2750 Big Lots Parkway in Durant.

## OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance events

The July regular meeting at the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance will include guest speakers from several Choctaw tribal programs. Scheduled for July 12 are representatives from Scholarship Advancement, Genealogy, Bishinik, Extracurricular and Clothing Allowance, Computer Distribution, and Housing. They will explain their respective programs and be available to answer any questions.

The OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance holds regular meetings on the second Monday of every month at the OCTA building, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd. in Oklahoma City. A potluck supper is held at 6 p.m. and the business meeting starts at 7 p.m. An Indian Taco Sale is held every second Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

## Meely Reunion

The Meely Reunion will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 12 at the Chickasaw Telephone Company, 124 W. Vinita Ave., Sulphur, OK 73086 (the corner of First and Vinita). A Meely heritage quilt will be auctioned off. Please bring a covered dish; meat will be provided. For more details regarding the silent auction, please contact Rosemary Wadlow at 580-247-0336.

## Gibson-Pope Reunion

The Gibson-Pope Reunion will be held June 19 at the McAlister Civic Center, located at 4500 U.S. 270. Doors will open at 9 a.m. For more information contact Clara Blevins at 918-423-4766 or 918-424-0908.

## Jim Reunion

The 2010 Jim Family Reunion will start at 11 a.m. on July 24 at Robber's Cave, Pavilion #6. All family members are encouraged to bring a covered dish and drinks. Please bring pictures or anything that your family would enjoy sharing. Any donation to help with the cost of the reunion will greatly be appreciated. For more information or directions please contact Lisa Mitchell at 405-625-1957 or email lisa.d.mitchell@ou.edu.

## Colbert and Enette Battiest Family Reunion

The Colbert and Enette Battiest family's first annual reunion will be July 24 at the Broken Bow Choctaw Community Center. All relatives of this family are invited to attend.

Contact information: Ivan Battiest at 580-236-1026, Nettie (Battiest) Caldwell at 580-612-2385 or Shelly Marlow at 580-306-7788.

## NOTES TO THE NATION

### On my own trail

I was born, at home, in a yellow house on Pine Street in Santa Rosa, Calif. When I was growing up my extended family consisted of approximately 15 youngsters, not including myself. My childhood was full of sharing and learning to get along with a variety of ages and personalities, fighting over dolls and running from biting babies. Over the years when family members would lose their houses to sudden evictions or raised rents they would come stay at our place until they got back on their feet. I have watched my extended family struggle my entire life; I have experienced how money and limited resources can hold people back from fulfilling their dreams.

On and off during my childhood my uncle Aaron lived on my parent's property, he is the one who taught me about my Choctaw heritage and the importance of keeping the traditions alive. To show my cousins that we could get involved and grow our network of resources I chose to run for Choctaw princess at the Okla Chahta gathering in Bakersfield, Calif. I won junior Choctaw princess in 2001. After winning I gained confidence and experienced the joy of showing my cousins that we can all achieve our goals even if they look impossible and now my cousin's daughter, Sophia, is getting involved. She ran for princess in 2009. This experience led me to apply for a prestigious art semester program called Oxbow.

The challenge I then faced was preparing a portfolio and writing an essay that would not only grant me admission but also provide me with a scholarship. It was my junior year in high school and I organized a silent auction with donated art from local artists to raise the rest of the money. Attending the Oxbow School exposed me to a whole new relationship to art, not only art practice but art as a career. I saw that I didn't have to be a "starving artist." I could get an education and eventually pass on my knowledge to others. At Oxbow I was introduced to several colleges including Savannah College of Art and Design where I eventually applied, was accepted and received their multi-cultural scholarship. For four years I studied art and learned to live on my own in a new and different area of the country; supported every step of the way by my family and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Choctaw Nation has supported me throughout my education. They have provided scholarships. This year I donated a piece of art to the raffle at the Okla Chahta Gathering and I am currently working on a multi-lingual book for children; it includes colors, numbers and animals. The book is written in English and Choctaw and it can be easily translated into any language. I just finished a book of stories by my granddad. The stories are of his childhood and some of the adventures he had as a young half Choctaw boy growing up in Oklahoma. I am looking to get my stories and illustrations published and into the hands of eager learners. These are the ways I have found to give back.

Last summer I traveled across the country with my mother on my way home from college. We explored Cherokee and Choctaw original territory, visited numerous mound sites, and paid our respects to the Choctaw mother mound, Nanih Waiya, and all our relations. As we re-traced some of the Trail of Tears, in our air-conditioned mini-van, I thought of all the hardships my relatives had to overcome and how proud I am to have that blood running through my veins. I am on my own trail, working out how I will navigate the obstacles in my path and take advantage of every opportunity that comes my way.

I now have my Bachelor's of Fine Art from the Savannah College of Art and Design. In the past year I have been published in Teaching Tolerance magazine, been shown in the Electric Rose Gallery, Healdsburg, Calif., and am currently exhibited at the Occidental Center for the Arts, Calif.. My next show will be at the Pine Cone Café in Sebastopol, Calif. I have also done commissioned work and won Best Medium and a First Place ribbon in the Sonoma County Harvest Fair. I owe a great deal of gratitude to Choctaw Nation and the emphasis placed on higher education for these achievements.

Merisha Lemmer

### Seeking information

I am looking for information about the Choctaw Nation Supreme Court from the years 1891 to 1905. I am especially interested in information about Chief Justice Joseph G. Garland. He is my great-great-great-grandfather and I would like a copy of his picture if anyone knows where I could get one.

If anyone has any information, please call Sheila Crutchfield at 405-824-9621.

### Resort will benefit Bryan County

Prior to my retirement from the "working world," I was able to have room accommodations at various hotels such as The Fairmont in San Francisco, the Hyatt Regency in Los Angeles, numerous hotels in Hawaii, the MGM and Golden Nugget in Las Vegas, Harrah's in Shreveport, and the Gold Strike in Tunica – all very nice hotels, but none compare to our lavish Choctaw Casino Resort. It is beautiful!

There is no doubt that travelers near and far who will visit and re-visit the Choctaw Casino Resort. As a result, their visits will significantly benefit Bryan County as a whole while being resourceful to the Choctaws in the enhancement of health, education, housing, enjoyment and business development concerns.

There was a lot of forethought, planning and wisdom in the undertaking of this latest business venture. Thank you Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton, Councilpersons and others within the Choctaw Nation for all you do toward betterment of our people. You are truly appreciated!

Georgia M. Stocker

### Floating wetland project

Thank you so much for your interest and help in PVIA's floating wetland project. Involving the youth was a great idea. These kids will remember that experience, and tie lake water quality and drinking water forever. PVIA and the Nation have many values in common.

Ken Hammond, PVIA Chairman

### Ideal location for meeting

We recently had our quarterly Tribal Health IT group meeting in Durant, at the Choctaw Resort Hotel. We had over 40 people from the Big Four Tribes Administration and Information Technology areas, Choctaw (Cherokee, Chickasaw and Creek Nations), Clinical Application Coordinators from Tribal and IHS sites, and OKC Inter-Tribal. We had sponsors for dinner and lunch from VMWare Inc. and InterSystems Inc., both large nation-wide vendors of health IT technology doing presentations for us.

Across the board almost every attendee and all vendor representatives repeatedly complemented the hotel, the food, the employees and staff of the hotel and convention center. Everyone was emphatic this was an ideal location, accommodation, food and services. Both vendors, who have significant services areas in Oklahoma, discussed future business meetings at the location, due to the accommodations and accessibility to DFW. We're already talking to InterSystems about a future training meeting at Choctaw Resort Hotel.

As employees, it even enthralls us to hear everyone discussing Choctaw Nation in such a complimentary fashion. As the sponsors of this quarter's meeting, Maureen Rogers was invaluable to us having a good meeting and representing Choctaw Nation well.

Skip Leader

### Seeking assistance

I am requesting assistance in contacting members of the Jeter family. Family history is that a Chief Fongbird Anderson had a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Anderson who married a man named Davis. They had a daughter who married a Buck Howard. Their daughter married Andrew H. Jeter, and their daughter, Sadie, married John Burton Boyd. I am his son, Floyd.

I would appreciate any information I can get on the Jeter family.

Floyd Boyd  
4525 Manzanita Ave., #301  
Carmichael, CA 95608  
Machbart@gmail.com

### Wright City PD receives new uniforms

The Wright City Police Department greatly appreciated the donation received to assist with purchasing our officer new uniforms. We are happy to say the Choctaw Nation is a huge supporter of law enforcement. Donations such as this make our day-to-day operations much easier to serve the community in a professional way.

Gaylen Hale, Chief of Police

### Thank you for support of troops

I want take this time to thank the Choctaw Nation for its support and prayers while my son, SSG Mike Davis, was in Afghanistan this last year. He is currently in Camp Atterbury going through some minor surgery for his shoulder before returning here to Henderson Nev. During his deployment his platoon came under fire many times and sustained minor injuries that I believe was do to prayer for our troops on many occasions. Thank you for your support of our troops both abroad and state side. I have received many letters of support of our military. Once again thank the family of the Choctaw Nation.

Michael Davis

### Appreciates Choctaw Nation programs

Not long ago one of my grandsons obtained his master's degree from Oklahoma State University. He is now on staff there as a teacher. He could not have obtained such a level of education without the help of the Choctaw Nation over the years.

Recently I expressed my personal need of a wheelchair to Carma Elliott who works to provide elders with needed medical equipment, etc. I was approved and now have my wheelchair, thanks to the hard work that you all do for tribal members. My thanks and appreciation goes out to all of you for your help, not only to me and my family, but to all Choctaws and others. Yakoke!

By the way, whenever I have phoned or e-mailed Choctaw Nation staff, I have found them to be friendly, courteous, capable and helpful. I always am encouraged by contact with tribal staff.

Curtis Pugh

### Planning centennial celebration

Some claim that Mamou was the name of an Indian Chief that lived in the Prairie Mamou circa 1850. Also referred to as Obe Blue Eye or Mamou Blue Eye. Any information would be helpful but regardless, I am also interested in making contact with someone that can give me information on having Indian dancing and Indian food and craft vendors attend our centennial celebration May 27-30, 2011.

Johnny Fuselier  
Mamou Rotary Public Relations Chairman  
1417 DeSoto St., Mamou, LA 70554  
337-468-5151

Gregory E. Pyle  
Chief

Gary Batton  
Assistant Chief

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Judy Allen, Executive Director  
Vonna Shults, Web Director  
Melissa Stevens, Circulation Director  
Janine Dills, Executive Assistant  
Lana Sleeper, Marketing Manager

Lisa Reed, Editor  
Larissa Copeland, Assistant Editor  
Karen Jacob, Purchasing Coordinator  
Brenda Wilson, Administrative Assistant  
Chrissy Dill, Journalism Intern

P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702  
(580) 924-8280 • (800) 522-6170  
Fax (580) 924-4148  
www.choctawnation.com  
e-mail: bishinik@choctawnation.com

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BISHINIK® 2010



Chief Gregory E. Pyle helps Jones Academy second-grader Odalys Lujano with an assignment.



Jones Academy Learn and Serve Officers are, front row from left, Shaylin White Buffalo and Maranda Rosiere; and back row, Richard Pedro and Jeffrey Herrington.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Director of Operations Gayla Guillory serve lunch to students at Jones Academy.

# Honored to serve youth of Jones Academy

Young leaders strive to 'Help others one by one, greater deeds can be done'

From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

It was an honor recently to stop and visit the students at Jones Academy near Harts-horne, Okla. I was welcomed into the first and second grade classroom to talk with some of the youth and teachers.

Everything about the classrooms and the new academic building is impressive. Smart boards are in each room offering the best in technology and interactive teaching. These boards combine the simplicity

of a whiteboard with the power of a computer.

Lighting in the rooms at the Jones Academy Academic Building is intuitive – turning on and off according to the presence of people in the room. This is a great step in “going green.”

Grades one through six attend classes on the campus, while the older students are bused to the local Hartshorne School.

Tutorial services are offered to all of the 180 students who attend Jones Academy. High

School students are provided with career counseling and a wide variety of extra curricular activities are encouraged. Classes in art, piano, guitar and dance are offered after school, and field trips are offered locally to do things like eat pizza and see a movie, as well as visits to tribal museums, festivals, pow wows and ancient burial mounds.

Special programs are on going throughout the year for students. One program, Learn and Serve, recently allowed me to participate by serving dinner to

the youth of Jones Academy. Students were honored for the servant leadership in projects such as Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup, Big Brother/Big Sister Program, Nursing Home Activities, Leadership Activities, Community Service and Substance Abuse Prevention.

The mission statement of the Learn and Serve program is “Helping Others One By One, Greater Deeds Can Be Done.”

It was great to be a part of their awards program and I appreciate these young leaders of our nation! Yakoke!



Christopher Lopez and Hector Berral explain their work to Chief Pyle.

## Becoming what we ought to be

Yakoke! (Thank you) for your prayers for the Choctaw people and for the Chaplain's Corner. May God bless you and may you have a good summer.

Today we are going to study about the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord in the Book of Joshua. In Joshua we see the process of becoming what we ought to be.

In the third chapter we are instructed in a basic truth for the child of God, and for the whole life of the Christian.

The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord played a very important part in Israel's history, like everything else in the tabernacle, the Ark had spiritual significance. It was the most outstanding piece of furniture in the Tabernacle and represented the presence of the Lord. It was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We read in verse three of Joshua chapter three where Joshua's officers "... commanded the people, saying, when you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it."

Just as they crossed the river Jordan and entered into the land of Canaan, so we as Christians are to keep our spiritual eyes fixed upon Jesus Christ.

This is what we read in Hebrews 23:2:

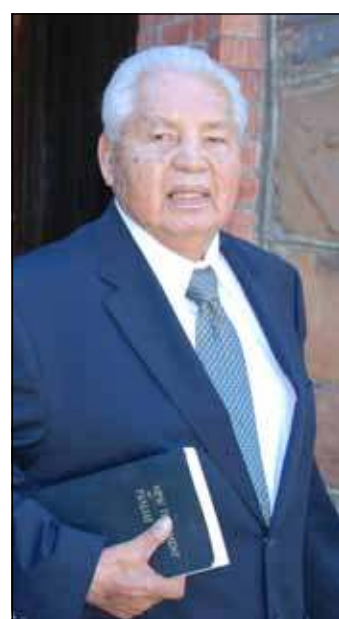
"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

This is the basic for our whole Christian life. We must keep our eyes on Him not only to see Him, but also to follow Him. This is exactly what the Israelites were instructed to do with regard to the Ark at the crossing of Jordan.

Before Moses was instructed to build the Tabernacle, a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night led the Israelites. At the Red Sea the angel of the Lord, together with the cloud stood behind the Israelites to protect them from the enemy. The Egyptian army followed after them but was not able to come up to them.

Now the situation concern-

### Chaplain's Corner



Rev. Bertram Bobb Tribal Chaplain

ing the Ark was different. The Ark went before them into the danger areas. There were no enemies behind them. All the enemy and battle was before them. Their fighting lay ahead.

To enter Canaan the promised land for the Israelites was a decision to become involved in a spiritual warfare.

Canaan is a picture of the Christian's battle against sin and his victory over it as he seeks to live for the Lord. This is the reason why it is very important that we keep our eyes on Jesus Christ who goes before us. He said of His work with us in John 10:4:

"And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice."

So it is as we enter spiritual warfare having first been born again we follow our Shepherd. The Lord Jesus spoke of this in John 10:27-29:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

"My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

All the power necessary for the conquest of Canaan was already provided for the Israel-

ites when they crossed the Red Sea. This great power was not experienced by them until they accepted it by faith.

Again we need to be reminded that this points to the fact that every blessing of God is ours the very moment we are born again. We have been blessed with spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

These blessings become ours in reality as we claim them by faith. The inheritance, all the blessings in Christ, is ours as a gift from God. Yet there is much more that becomes ours as we, by faith, just take it as ours.

As the Lord commanded the Israelites to fix their eyes on the Ark of the Covenant, we too much keep our spiritual eyes fixed on Jesus Christ the author and finisher of our faith.

So in the Book of Joshua we see the promise of becoming what we ought to be. We ought to be victorious children of God. There is wonderful inheritance that we have that is kept in trust for us in Jesus Christ, and it is ours as we earn to possess and take it.

You may be saying, this sounds good, this is the kind of life I want to live. How do I begin?

First, realize that as the Israelites were in bondage in Egypt they needed a deliverer. Today realize that you are in bondage to sin and Satan and that you need a deliverer. Your Deliverer is Jesus Christ.

Believe the record of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ. Believe that He paid the penalty for sin, which is death. He died for you and He rose again the third day and today He lives.

As you believe in Him, believe means to trust, you can have life. Eternal life to live with Him forever. Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Will you do this today? Write to me and let me know, I will pray for you. My mailing address is P.O. Box 9, Antlers, OK 74523.

Remember to pray for our country and for our leaders. Pray for our brave men and women in our armed services.



A Learn and Serve Dinner was held April 7 at Jones Academy in honor of the students who had participated in service projects throughout the year.

## Tribal Council holds May session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met on May 8 in regular session at Tushka Homma. The meeting was called to order and then opened with prayer led by Tribal Council Chaplain Joe Coley and then followed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

Tribal Council Speaker Delton Cox welcomed guests to the monthly meeting, asked for approval of the previous month's minutes and then committee reports were given. After reports were given, the Tribal Council addressed new business:

- Modification of the 20-year Long Range Transportation Plan
- Approved application for DHHS for Injury Prevention Program, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Public Health and Science of Adolescent Family Life Demonstration Project, DHHS for the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program, grant continu-

ation for Tribal Victim Assistance and Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Services for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant

- Right-of-way easement in favor of Oklahoma Electric Cooperative in McClain County
- Approval NAHASDA 2010 Indian Housing Plan
- Approval of budget for administration on Aging Nutrition Service Incentive Budget
- Approval of budget for Native American Caregiver Support Program
- Approval of budget for DHHS Administration on Aging
- Approval of limited waiver of Sovereign Immunity for Choctaw Profession Resources Enterprise (CPRE)

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council meets in regular session at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Tribal Council Chambers at Tushka Homma.

## Chief is 2010 Red Earth Ambassador

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

Congratulations to Chief Pyle for being selected as the 2010 Red Earth Ambassador! Red Earth is one of the largest Native American events in the world, held each June in Oklahoma City. An ambassador has been chosen each year since 1991, when Kevin Costner was chosen to represent the festival.

This is an honor given to people to recognize them for making significant contributions in presenting a positive image of Native Americans. The 2010 Red Earth Festival will be June 18, 19 and 20 at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

Chief Pyle has become world-renowned as a leader of the Native American community and his dedication to



heritage, health and education are recognized by other tribes as well as non-tribal people ev-

erywhere. He is very deserving of this great honor! I am proud to call him Miko.

## 2010 Sardis Dam 5K RUN

Choctaw Nation invites you to the 4th Annual Sardis Dam 5K Run on Saturday, June 26, at 8:30 a.m. Sardis Lake is located five miles north of Clayton, along Oklahoma Highway 2 in beautiful southeastern Oklahoma. The lake covers 14,360 acres, with 117 miles of shoreline, and offers many opportunities for every diversification of outdoor recreation.

Three campgrounds are located around the lake offering various facilities including general hookups, restrooms, showering facilities, swim beach and fishing docks. The lake also has facilities for group camping and picnic shelters equipped with tables, electricity and large outdoor cooking grills. Come join us at the western tip of the Ouachita Mountain Range.

### Contact Information-Choctaw Nation

REACH US 1-800-349-7026, ext. 6044 or 6958

USATF Certified: fast and flat with a down hill finish!

No registration fee!!

### Registration and Pick Up:

Runners may register by mail no later than June 16 using the form below. Pre-registered participants will receive a t-shirt based on availability. After deadline date, June 16, you must register on site. Race day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Registration and the awards ceremony will be held at the spillway below the dam. Starting line will be at the Corps of Engineers office and finish line below the dam by the spillway. Transportation will be provided to the start line. Last shuttle will be leaving 15 min. prior to the starting time. Race will begin at 8:30 a.m.

### Awards:

Medals will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers in each age group. In addition, 1st place overall male and female will receive a trophy. We will also have door prizes after the awards are given.

### SPONSORED BY:

Choctaw Nation  
REACH US program  
Wellness Education  
Diabetes Wellness Center

### Registration Form Sardis Dam 5K RUN

Mail to:  
Choctaw Nation REACH US  
One Choctaw Way  
Talihina, OK 74571

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Race day age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt: Adult- Sm. Med. Lg. XL XXL  
Youth- Med. Lg.

No wheels on course (ex. strollers-wagons-wheelchairs etc.)

**Waiver of Liability:** I know that the event is held on a road that is traveled on by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and responsibility for my safety. I hereby waive all claims that I or my estate may have against any persons of entities involved in organizing, conducting or supporting this event for any injury or loss I might suffer even if injury of loss was caused by the negligence of those parties. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photograph of me or my child in the Bishinik or other Choctaw Nation promotional posters, brochures and newspaper articles.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian signature, if under 18 years old.

Entry Form# \_\_\_\_\_ (official use only)

## Choctaw Nation 5k Rocket Run

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual 5K Rocket Run will be held at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina on Friday, July 2, 2010. A fireworks display will take place at dark, along with live entertainment and vendors. So come on out, bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the show!

Registration – 5:30 p.m. to 6:25 p.m.

Race Starts – 6:30 pm Course certified by Glen's Road Race

Awards: Medals for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place male and female in each age category (5-year age groups). Also, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place medals to the overall male and female.

Pre-registration **Deadline** Date June 23, 2010  
After deadline date you must register on site.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Race Day Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Shirt Size: Sm. Med Lg. XLg. 2X 3X Youth Shirt Size: Sm. Med. Lg. XLg.

**Waiver of Liability:** I know that the event is held on a road that is traveled on by vehicles and may be hazardous. I assume the risk and responsibility for my safety. I hereby waive all claims that I, or my estate, may have against any persons of entities involved in organizing, conducting or supporting this event for any injury or loss I might suffer even if injury or loss was caused by the negligence of those parties. I attest that I am physically fit and prepared for this event. I grant full permission for organizers to use photographs of me or my child in the Bishinik or other Choctaw Nation promotions on physical activity.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Required if participant is under 18)

Mail entry form to: Choctaw Nation REACH US 5 K Rocket Run  
One Choctaw Way Talihina, OK 74571

5 K Rocket Run Sponsored by Choctaw Nation Wellness Dept. / REACH US & DWCC  
For more information call 918-567-7000 or 1-800-349-7026 ext. 6044 or 6958.

official use only  
Entry #



### Listening Session held with tribal leaders

A "Listening Session" with tribal leaders was held at the Cox Center in Oklahoma City April 20. Pictured are Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, Director of Indian Health Service, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Mickey Peercy, Executive Director of Choctaw Nation Health Services. She spent time discussing her administration's health care priorities and then spent time with individual tribal leaders to listen to their health care priorities.

### Improving your overall health

With summer fast approaching some of us are looking to improve our shape for all the fun summer activities. When looking to improve ourselves for fun we should also be looking to improve our overall health to help prevent lifelong diseases as well.

Over 60 percent of American men are overweight or obese. And being overweight causes more than 300,000 premature deaths every year, increases the risk of developing diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer and can worsen other conditions such as depression. Not only does this affect American men, this also affects the health of the women in their lives. Women have been shown to have an increase in high blood pressure, blood sugar and depression when their husband's health is in poor standing. The good news is that the Diabetes Prevention Trials found that people who are at risk for diabetes decreased their risk by 45 percent by losing 7-8 percent of their body weight by having healthy well balanced meals and moderate exercise. We do need to be patient though, it will take the about the same amount of time to take it off as it did to gain it. So, about one to two pounds per week is what we should aim for. To help us get there here is a fun summer recipe to try:

#### Chicken and Fruit Salad

2 cups cooked and cubed chicken or turkey  
2 oranges, peeled and cut into chunks  
1 cup seedless grapes  
1 cup strawberries, halved  
1/2 cup sliced celery  
5 large lettuce leaves

#### Dressing:

1/3 cup fat-free strawberry yogurt (with artificial sweetener)  
1 Tbsp light mayonnaise  
1 Tbsp orange juice

**Preparation:** 1. Make dressing by mixing the first three ingredients. 2. Combine remaining ingredients (except lettuce) in a bowl. 3. Add dressing and toss. Serve on lettuce leaves.

Serves 5; makes 7 1/2 cups

**Nutrition Information:** Calories: 173, Sodium: 83mg, Total Fat: 3 g Total Carbohydrate: 19g, Saturated Fat: 1 g, Dietary Fiber: 3g, Cholesterol: 44mg, Sugars: 15g, Protein: 18g

For further information contact: Erin Adams, RD, LD,  
Choctaw Nation Diabetes Wellness Center, 800-349-7026, ext. 6959.

### New moms can prevent Diabetes by keeping up healthy habits

Contributed by the National Diabetes Education Program



Women who develop high blood glucose (blood sugar) levels during pregnancy are said to have gestational diabetes. These women should be tested for diabetes six to 12 weeks after their baby is born. In many cases their blood glucose levels show that they are no longer considered to have diabetes. But what many people don't realize is that new moms

who had gestational diabetes will continue to have a greater risk for getting diabetes during their entire lifetime. So even if the test for diabetes is normal right after the baby is born, these women should continue to get tested for diabetes at least every three years.

"Many women think that if the follow-up test after the baby is born shows no signs of diabetes, they are in the clear. That is not the case," said Vivian Pinn, MD, Director of the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) at the National Institutes of Health. "They continue to have a greater risk for getting diabetes in the future. The good news is that there are modest but important steps these women can take to prevent or delay developing diabetes."

Gestational diabetes occurs more often in women with

a family history of diabetes, obese women and Latina, African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Alaska Native women. Moms who have had gestational diabetes should be tested on a regular basis for diabetes, so it is important that they tell their doctors about their history of gestational diabetes. This follow up screening may be a simple blood test.

Women who have had gestational diabetes have a two-in-three chance that it will return in future pregnancies so they should also talk to their obstetricians if they plan on becoming pregnant again.

Women with a history of gestational diabetes should also make an effort to reach and maintain a healthy weight by making healthy food choices and being active for at least 30 minutes, five days a week.

Even if women do not reach their "goal" weight, research shows that maintaining a healthy lifestyle can help reduce risk. These action steps are also good for the entire family. "Children of women who had gestational diabetes are also at risk for obesity and diabetes, so it's a good idea for mothers to let their child's pediatrician know that they had gestational diabetes," added Pinn.

"Keeping a healthy lifestyle as a family is good for everyone. It helps both mom and baby manage their risks for getting diabetes in the future."

For a free tip sheet on gestational diabetes, including steps to reduce the risk of developing diabetes, call the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) at 1-888-693-NDEP (6337) or visit their website at [www.YourDiabetesInfo.org](http://www.YourDiabetesInfo.org).

## NURSERY NEWS

### Kenyon Alexander Ludlow

Kenyon Alexander Ludlow was born May 14, 2010, to Ashley Nicole Walters and Ryan Keith Ludlow of Talihina. He weighed 6 pounds 9 ounces and was 19 inches long. His grandparents are Kenny and Elizabeth Ludlow of Talihina, and Shelli and Steven Walters of Peru, Ind. His great grandparents are Dewena Moore of Talihina and Rhonda Grubbs of Mt. Pleasant, Texas. His aunt is Katlyne Ludlow of Talihina, and his uncles are Joshua and Jasper Walters of Peru.



### Aleikae Ray Thies

Amy Davidson and Kenneth Thies are proud to announce the birth of their son, Aleikae Ray Thies. He was born at 10:32 a.m. on April 1, 2010, in Durant. He weighed 8 pounds 11 ounces. He joins sister Azlynn Ray Thies, 19 months old. His proud grandparents are Kathy and Kenneth Thies and Debbie Davidson and great-grandparents are Mary and Fred Pippin and great-grandfather Thies. His proud aunts are Kayla, Lindsey, Melissa, and Lacey, and proud uncles are Kevin, Kayson and Shaun.



### Nathan Maddox Hinojosa

Nathan Maddox Hinojosa was born March 30, 2010, in Visalia, Calif., weighing 7 pounds 14 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. His parents are Andrew and Kimberly Hinojosa and proud great-great-grandmother is Grace Huff.



### Prevent choking for pre-school children

## WIC

Every child is at risk for choking, but a child under the age of four is more likely to choke because they like to put objects in their mouths, have a narrow throat or airway, and cannot chew as well as older children (may not have a full set of teeth yet).

Children usually have 12 teeth by 18 months, 16 teeth by two years and 20 baby teeth by two and a half. They usually have all their molars by six years — the grinding teeth at the back of their mouths.

**Foods that may cause choking:** hot dogs or sausages, tough meats; chunks of meat or

cheese; thick "globs" of peanut butter; peanuts, sunflower seeds and nuts; large pieces of raw fruits and vegetables; carrot sticks or baby carrots; cherry tomatoes; whole grapes; raisins; hard or sticky candy; chewing gum; marshmallows; popcorn; chips.

**Chew, Chew ...** show your child how to put a small amount of food in his or her mouth at one time and **how to chew** the food before swallowing.

Let your **child watch you chew and swallow small amounts** of food well before swallowing. Your child learns best by watching how you eat.

## Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Effective June 1



SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	Every Tuesday
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Thurs. & Fri. 1st, 3rd & 4th Wed.
Bethel	580-241-5458	8:30-4:00	1st Tuesday
Boswell	580-380-2517	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Friday
Broken Bow	580-584-2746	8:00-4:30	Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri. 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday 2nd Wednesday
Coalgate	580-927-3641	8:30-4:00	Daily
Durant	580-924-8280 x 2255	8:00-4:30	Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 3rd & 4th Friday
Hugo	580-326-5404	8:00-4:30	Mon. & Fri., 1st & 3rd Thurs. Daily
Idabel	580-286-2510	8:00-4:30	Daily
McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30	Daily
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30	Daily
Smithville	580-244-3289	8:30-4:00	2nd Thursday
Spiro	918-962-5134	8:00-4:30	Every Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	Every Monday & Tuesday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:00-4:30	Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	Every Thursday

## Choctaw Nation takes part in Tobacco Conference

The Choctaw Nation joined with several other tribes and organizations across the state to promote awareness of the dangers of commercial tobacco use and help others understand the sacred and ceremonial use of tobacco in Native American culture.

The conference, Preparing for the 7th Generation, was held in April in Norman, Ok. and brought together representatives of six tribal governments, the State of Oklahoma and other state health organizations to discuss working together in getting messages out about the dangers of commercial tobacco and the understanding ceremonial use.

"The conference began as a result of several tribes based in Oklahoma discussed partnering together for a conference of this nature. Many tribes had difficulty working with the state because of the sovereignty of tribal governments. The conference was a way to allow both sides to work together and to help us teach the state employees about tribal culture," said June Maher, health educator for the Cherokee Nation Healthy Nation program.

Since the first conference in 2008, the tribes and the State have begun working together and sharing resources to reduce the death and disease associated with commercial tobacco use and addiction.

Teresa Davis, Choctaw Nation Healthcare Wellness Coordinator, opened the second day of the conference, with the Choctaw Nation Color Guard posting the colors. Bob Ludlow, Choctaw Nation, offered prayer in the Choctaw language. Doris Ward from the CNHCC Wellness Dept. also led the physical activity portion of the conference with fun filled circuit training.

## Dangers of Water Pollution

Virtually all types of water pollution are harmful to the health of humans and animals. Water pollution may not damage our health immediately but can be harmful after long term exposure. Different forms of pollutants affect the health of animals in different ways:

- Heavy metals from industrial processes can accumulate in nearby lakes and rivers. These are toxic to marine life such as fish and shellfish, and subsequently to the humans who eat them. Heavy metals can slow development; result in birth defects and some are carcinogenic.
- Microbial pollutants from sewage often result in infectious diseases that infect aquatic life and terrestrial life through drinking water. Microbial water pollution is a major problem in the developing world, with diseases such as cholera and typhoid fever being the primary cause of infant mortality.

Organic matter and nutrients causes an increase in aerobic algae and depletes oxygen from the water column. This causes the suffocation of fish and other aquatic organisms.

Sulfate particles from acid rain can cause harm the health of marine life in the rivers and lakes it contaminates, and can result in mortality.

Suspended particles in freshwater reduces the quality of drinking water for humans and the aquatic environment for marine life. Suspended particles can often reduce the amount of sunlight penetrating the water, disrupting the growth of photosynthetic plants and micro-organisms.



## McDaniel is ECU's Social Work Program Distinguished Alumni

Choctaw Nation Executive Director Shannon McDaniel was recently presented an award from Dr. Carol Bridges to honor him as East Central University Social Work Program Distinguished Alumni for 2010.

A 22-year employee of the Choctaw Nation, McDaniel became Executive Director of Community Services for the tribe in 1997 and supervises WIC, Food Distribution, Children and Family Services, Social Services, Clothing Allowance Programs, Emergency Needs, Paralegal Service, Senior Nutrition and Veterans Advocacy. In 2001, he was also named Executive Director of Tribal Management.

McDaniel serves on the Choctaw Nation Business Committee, which oversees the tribe's businesses. He also serves on the Choctaw Nation Focus Group which reviews program needs and changes.



Brad Spears, Jones Academy Administrator, awards Tracy Lewis the Wood-McClure Scholarship.

## Lewis awarded scholarship

Jones Academy high school senior Tracy Lewis was the 2010 recipient of the James "Mickey" McClure Scholarship. The scholarship is sponsored by the Robert H. Wood family in honor of James McClure, Robert Wood was a coach and teacher at Jones Academy from 1942 through 1947. McClure was a student at the academy as well as captain of the boxing team. The scholarship is bestowed to students who have demonstrated strong leadership skills and academic excellence. The students must have also displayed good citizenship and sportsmanship qualities as part of the grant requirements. Tracy was presented with the award during a reception for Jones Academy graduating seniors.

Tracy's other honors include the Hartshorne/Haileyville Student of Today Award, the OSU Academic Achievement Award, National Honor Society, Oklahoma Honor Society, the Superintendent's Honor Roll and the UCO Bronco Merit Tuition Waiver Scholarship. After high school, Tracy plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma to major in accounting.

Tracy is the 17-year-old daughter of Marcella Torres and the granddaughter of Louisa Resendiz of Broken Bow. She has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne Public School for seven years. She was a cheerleader, the yearbook editor, involved in Gifted and Talented, a member of the Learn and Serve Project and a varsity softball player.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### ANTLERS

Market open weekdays July 1-23, except for:  
**July 7:** Idabel 9-11 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m. (market closed)  
**July 14:** Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2 (market closed)  
**July 5:** Tribal Holiday  
**Closed** July 26-30 for inventory and training  
**Cooking with Carmen:** July 12 & 21, 10 a.m.-12 noon

### DURANT

Market open weekdays: July 1-23, except for:  
**July 5:** Tribal Holiday  
**Closed** July 26-30 for inventory and training  
**Cooking with Carmen:** July 6, 10 a.m.-12 noon

### McALESTER

Market open weekdays July 1-23, except for:  
**July 5:** Tribal Holiday  
**Closed** July 26-30 for inventory and training  
**Cooking with Carmen:** July 1 & 16, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

### POTEAU

Market open weekdays July 1-23, except for:  
**July 5:** Tribal Holiday  
**Closed** July 26-30 for inventory and training  
**Cooking with Carmen:** July 8 & 14, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

## CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday thru Friday.  
 We will take lunch from 11:30 to 12 noon

### WAREHOUSES & MARKETS

**Antlers:** 306 S.W. "O" St., 580-298-6443  
**Durant:** 100 1/2 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773  
**McAlester:** 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716  
**Poteau:** 100 Kerr, 918-649-0431

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

**Bethel:** Choctaw Community Building  
**Broken Bow:** Choctaw Family Investment Center  
**Idabel:** Choctaw Community Center  
**Smithville:** Choctaw Community Center  
**Stigler:** Choctaw Community Center

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# Dayla Amos crowned 2010 Miss Indian Oklahoma

By Chrissy Dill

Dayla Amos made her way into the pageant world when she was just 8 years old. In 1998, she was crowned Little Miss Choctaw Nation. Five years later, she became Junior Miss Choctaw Nation. Soon after, she was crowned 2008 Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. On May 1, after 12 years hard work, she found herself with the title of 2010 Miss Indian Oklahoma.

"I had no idea what I was doing," said Dayla, when recalling the beginnings of her pageant career. "I thought I'd give it a try." It all started when she became Little Miss Choctaw in 1998. When she laid her eyes on the 1998 Miss Choctaw Nation, she set a goal that she would achieve years later. She knew that's where she wanted to be one day. "I'm glad I started when I did," said Dayla. It's given her "a lot of opportunities."

After she had won the title of Miss Choctaw Nation in 2008, Dayla was saddened because she thought her pageant career was over; thinking she had gone as far as she could. When someone suggested she compete for Miss Indian Oklahoma, Dayla set a new goal and had the crown in her sights.

While participating in the Miss Indian Oklahoma pageant, Dayla found herself competing in a variety of categories. She had to perfect a traditional greeting, where she introduced herself and described her traditional dress in her native language of Choctaw. She also got to choose her own escort, which she introduced in the Choctaw language as well. Dayla had to explain why she chose her escort, which was her grandfather. "He's played an important role in my life," she said.

For the traditional talent competition, Dayla chose to sing the hymn "Amazing Grace" in both English and the Choctaw language. She also performed the song in sign language. Other competitions Dayla competed in included contemporary dress, evening dress and she had to answer an impromptu question. When asked what her favorite competition was, she said the "traditional greeting." It was her chance to let people know about herself and let them know about her Choctaw tribe.

A few weeks after taking home the Miss Indian Oklahoma crown, Dayla said she is "real busy already." Being Miss Indian Oklahoma, she represents all 38 Native American tribes of Oklahoma, while also representing the Choctaw Nation. She shows this representation wherever she is invited to go, such as Pow Wows and banquets. So far, she has been a part of a couple of district princess pageants, she has met with Congressman Dan Boren and she has assisted the Choctaw Language Department by giving several tours of the Choctaw RV Park and Casino. "It has been really fun," she said.

In all of her experience with the pageant community, Dayla says her favorite part throughout



Miss Indian Oklahoma Dayla Amos is the daughter of Councilman Mike and Vicki Amos of Broken Bow, was also 2008 Miss Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

the years has been participating in the Choctaw Nation pageants. "It's not as stressful," explains Dayla. "I just felt more comfortable around all of the girls. They were like me." She went on to express her appreciation for Choctaw Nation pageant coordinator, Leigh Rapier. "She has done a great job," she said. "She made it fun for all the girls."

Dayla's platform for the Miss Indian Oklahoma is the education of diabetes in today's society. Dayla plans on raising the awareness of the need for education of diabetes and it's prevention. She hopes this will help the tribe of the Choctaw Nation.

"I hope that winning this title helps girls realize they can achieve bigger and better things," said Dayla. She went on to explain how she didn't expect to win, but she kept pushing toward her goal, putting in hours of hard work along the way. All of the opportunities she has been given have been a blessing. Her wish is to set a good example for young girls and hopes they will look up to her. She hopes they can say, "If she can do it, I can do it!"

# Jones Academy students tour Kiowa Power Plant

Jones Academy fifth-graders took an educational field trip to the Kiowa Electric Power plant on May 5. When they arrived, they were greeted by Craig Danials and Brittini Broussard after passing through the electric sliding safety gate at the front entrance.

The group was escorted to the conference room where students were able to look at pictures on a large video screen. The pictures showed the building process of the plant and how it was designed. Danials took time to talk about all the jobs the people did to help build the facility. Some students said they might be interested in the types of work that were discussed. Some jobs talked about included engineering, lab work, heavy machinery operators, construction, safety checkers, and computer technicians. Craig mentioned he used to sit in class and wonder why he was learning all the objectives that were being taught. He said now he sees how the objectives help shape individuals into well-rounded citizens who can live productive lives and help others.

After students were given ear plugs, safety glasses, and hard hats they were taken on a tour of the power plant. The students were able to see how big the generators were, relating to the pictures viewed earlier about how the magnets inside them turned around a large coil of wire to produce electricity. The plant uses the cleanest burning fossil fuel which is natural gas to turn the large turbines that are similar to jet engines. A lot of heat is left over and is then used to



Front row, Jacinda Butler, Jennifer Yeager, Gabrielle Benavidez, Joe Simpson and Enrique Guerrero. Standing are Mariella Chatkehoodle, Araceli Ortiz, Mr. Sirmans, Bryan Hawkins, Tucson Evans, Isaiah Rodriguez, Craig Danials and Miss Fry.

make steam that turns steam turbines which turn generators that also make electricity. The steam is then caught and condensed back into water that can be reused to make the plant more resourceful instead of pumping that much water in again to start the process over again.

After returning to Jones Academy the students were asked to write about their adventure to the Kiowa Power Plant.

Araceli Ortiz said it was a very fascinating experience

while Mariella Chatkehoodle commented she had learned a load of fantastic facts.

Bryan Hawkins wrote an outstanding report that was very detailed and discussed the valves, pipes, towers, and generators.

Instructors were impressed with all the knowledge the students retained and compared with other prior knowledge studied this year. Fifth grade teacher Joe Sirmans would like to encourage other educators to inquire about the Kiowa power plant tour.

# PEOPLE YOU KNOW

## Happy 12th birthday

Austin and Logan would like to wish their big brother Caleb Sullivan a happy birthday on May 12, 2010. Caleb's in the 6th grade. He enjoys playing the tuba in the Durant Intermediate School band and his Papaw is teaching him to play the guitar. He also plays video games and loves being with his friends and family. Caleb is the son of Matt and Lorelei Sullivan of Durant. He is the grandson of the Rev. Floyd and Nancy Peters of Antlers.



## Happy 1st birthday

Layla May Hasson celebrated her 1st birthday on May 25, 2010. She is the great-great-granddaughter of the late David Adam LeFlore, an original enrollee, great-granddaughter of Lucille Hyacinth LeFlore Crow, a 1930 Wheelock Academy graduate, and the granddaughter of Phyllis Hasson Crow of San Juan Capistrano, Calif. Layla is the daughter of Jerad and Marina Hasson of Bailey, Colo.



## Family gathers to celebrate birthday

Four generations gathered May 6-8, 2010, to celebrate the 89th birthday of Jim Mack Hastings at his home in Broken Bow. Jim Mack was born in Lukfata in 1921 to Joe Hastings and Daisy Costilow Hastings, an original enrollee. He was joined by four of his children, two daughters-in-law, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Jim Mack is shown with one of his great-grandsons, Owen Hair of Tulsa, helping grandpa blow out the candles on his birthday cake. He celebrated with his family over a four-day period with great meals, birthday cake and lots of reminiscing.

Jim Mack, at 89, is still a practicing pharmacist in Broken Bow, where he started working at a Broken Bow pharmacy at the age of 12 as a soda jerk!

## Happy 1st birthday

Adrianna Williams celebrated her 1st birthday on June 3, 2010. She is the daughter of Chenoa Williams of Idabel. Her grandparents are Louis Williams of Pickens and Nancy Jefferson of Battiest. Also wishing her a happy 1st birthday are her aunts Kim, Marcie, Jennifer, Randi and Courtney and cousins Hearty and Ciarra.



## Rasmussen / Fowler exchange vows

Brian Rasmussen and Angela Fowler, both of Ada, were married on April 23, 2010, at Wintersmith Lodge in Ada.

Angela, originally from Des Moines, Iowa, is the daughter of Richard and Carol Fowler of Ada. Angela's son is Joshua Fowler and two grandchildren are Mckenzy and Alexander Fowler.



Brian, originally from Kenosha, Wisc., is the son of Lee Rasmussen of Wisconsin and Joyce Hensley of Ada. Brian's children are Emily and Erik Rasmussen and he has a grandchild on the way.

## Cousins celebrate June birthdays

Cousins Joe Scott Cunningham and Joe'al Cunningham celebrate their birthdays in June. Joe Scott, son of Debbie and Joe Cunningham of Texas, turned 19 on June 4, 2010. Joe'al, son of Stacy and Cody Cunningham of Oklahoma, celebrated his 3rd birthday on June 7, 2010. They are descendants of original enrollees Matilda Elizabeth LeFlore Manning, Angie Fox and Ethel M. Fox. Sending happy birthday wishes to their grandsons are Papa Joe and "Genny."

## Happy birthday David

Happy birthday wishes to David Lee, who will celebrate his 42nd birthday on July 30, 2010. He is the oldest great-grandchild of the late Lester Jamison and the oldest son of Kathy Jamison. He is also the oldest grandson of J.D. Jamison of Durant. He is pictured at age 5.



## Happy birthday Lloyd

Lloyd B. "Dub" Morris of Stidham celebrated his 91st birthday on May 5, 2010. His family sends him very happy birthday wishes.



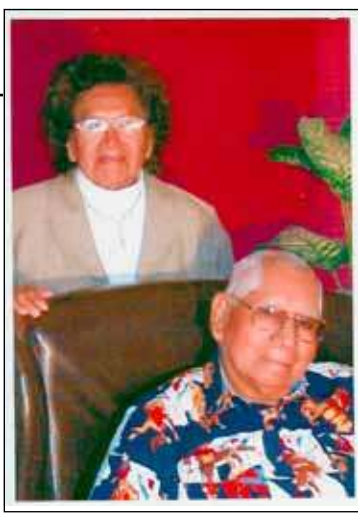
## Happy birthday Cephus

Happy birthday wishes go to Cephus John, who celebrated his 69th birthday on April 18, 2010. He is healthy and thankful and hopes all his Chaha friends are too.



## Happy birthday, Mr. and Mrs. Amos

Bill and Louise Amos, parents of District 2 Councilman Mike Amos and Nancy Williams of Edmond, celebrated their birthdays in May. Bill celebrated his 87th birthday on May 3, 2010, and Louise turned 83 on May 6, 2010. Bill and Louise have six grandchildren, Justin, Derrick, Zachary, Dayla, Nikki and Andrew. They are active in the Idabel District 1 exercise program and stay busy raising a garden, which they share with elderly handicap senior citizens.



Bill and Louise also celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on March 26, 2010.

## Happy sweet 16th

Danielle Smith celebrated her sweet 16th birthday on May 20, 2010. Her family wishes her a very happy birthday. She is the daughter of Ronnie and Deloures Smith and the granddaughter of Evelyn Johnson and the late Eulus Johnson Jr. Her aunt is Annett Johnson and brother is Ronnie Smith Jr.



## Happy 50th anniversary

William and Esther Lee celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary together on June 8, 2010. They attend the First Concord Baptist Church of Rye, Texas. They credit the success of their marriage to going to church, praying together, and helping to raise their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Esther is the daughter of the late Thomas Jefferson Underwood, an original enrollee.



## Texas group makes stop in Durant, takes in Choctaw culture, language and history

A Texas tour group recently visited the Choctaw Nation RV Park Resort and made a special request for Choctaw Culture, Language and History. The group also visited Choctaw Casino Resort, and enjoyed a tour of the casino, eateries and poolside/hotel amenities. The Texans were very honored by the Choctaw Hospitality of Choctaw Language/Casino Guest Service Staff and were very excited to meet and hear the traditional singing of Miss Indian Oklahoma 2010 Dayla Amos!



## Antone deploys to Qatar

Aaron Holland Antone, an aeronautical mechanic in the U.S. Navy out of Oak Harbor, Wash., deployed in May to Qatar in the Middle East. Antone is a 2003 graduate of Chino Valley High School and joined the Navy in July 2006. He is the son of Carrie Kills Enemy At Night of Chino Valley and Alphonso Lee Antone of Tohono O'Odham Nation, Ariz. His wife, Janis, and daughters, Jasmine Rain and Autumn Rose, remain at home. His mother reports that her son said when he joined the Navy, "Mom, don't worry, be proud! I do this so my little girl can have her ceremony and drink the mud, that all little Tohono O'Odham girls can always drink the mud." She also said he is following in his Choctaw relative's footsteps, who were also Navy veterans, and she quotes a Choctaw warrior as saying, "Falumichi Likeyu (I won't retreat). Shucknashopa keyu (I am not afraid)." She also says her son will remember all his high school friends, takes his tribal community and his tri-city area community with him to Qatar, as an honor to serve in the U.S. Navy overseas.



## Great job, Jedidiah and Micah

Jedidiah and Micah Lane ran in the Remember the Ten 5K Run in Stillwater on the Oklahoma State University campus on April 17, 2010. Out of 642 runners, Jedidiah placed 46th overall and 8th in his age bracket. Micah placed 122nd overall and 22nd in his age bracket. They are pictured with Kenni Lane. Kenni is the granddaughter of original enrollee Alice Billy Bacon and Jedidiah and Micah are her great-grandsons. They appreciate the assistance from the Choctaw Nation to help them further their education as they both work towards their master's degrees.



## Happy 13th birthday

Happy 13th birthday to Alicia Salina Fink, who will celebrate her 13th birthday on June 17, 2010. She attends Santa Fe South Charter Middle School in Oklahoma City. She will be an eighth grade cheerleader for the 2010-2011 school year. She is the great-great-great-great-granddaughter of original enrollees, Ramsey D. and Emeline Betts.



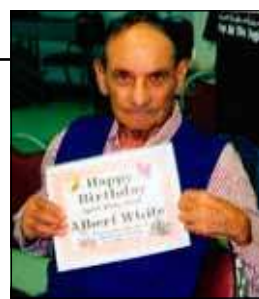
## Happy 5th birthday

Taylor Mae Snowbird Zurmuhlen of Crested Butte, Colo., recently celebrated her 5th birthday. Her mommy, daddy and Buster are very proud of her and send her the happiest birthday wishes.



## Happy birthday Albert

Albert L. White, born April 10, 1924, celebrated his 86th birthday at the Lavaca and Greenwood Senior Center. His daughter Lynda and Joe Kropf also took him out for a special birthday dinner. Albert is very proud of his Choctaw heritage.



## Happy 16th birthday

Happy 16th birthday to Chu'sa Gipson of Atoka. Sending him birthday wishes are his dad, mom, brother Nehemiah, Margaret, and Steven Gipson. His grandparents are the late Willie and Mary Jane Gipson and Jasper and Savannah Scott.



## Happy birthday Mark

The family of Mark Dean Tushka of Broken Bow wish him a very happy birthday. Mark will turn 28 on June 12, 2010. Sending him his birthday wishes are brother Eric, sister Patty, grandparents Barrentine and Nancy Tushka, mother Peggy, and all his aunts, uncles and cousins.



## Happy birthday Allen

Allen Battiest of Watson celebrated his birthday on May 10, 2010. Allen, right, who is a quadriplegic, sends his thanks to his cousin, Johnny Ward Jr. of Idabel, left, for being his helping hand in taking care of his mother, Linda Lowman. He wants Johnny to know how much he is appreciated.



## Happy birthday Kalin

Kalin Beller is celebrated her 7th birthday on May 12. She is the daughter of Brandon and Crystal Beller of Tahlequah and the granddaughter of Nelson and Debra Wesley of Rattan, and Dorothy Beller of Broken Bow. She is also the great-great-granddaughter of Elsie and Lenis Wesley and Nadine Billy of Rattan and the late Edwin Billy. Kalin enjoys playing ball, gymnastics and cheer, and playing with her little sister Kaira. Sneding her happy birthday wishes are her mom, dad and sissy.



# PEOPLE YOU KNOW

## Eric graduates, receives prestigious sports award

Congratulations to Eric Gengnagel on his graduation from Elgin High School and for receiving a prestigious state sports award for his work on the football field.

Eric quarterbacked the Elgin Owls football team for the second year in a row this past fall and was honored on April 8, 2010, at the 34th Annual March of Dimes Sports Headliner Banquet held at the Skirvin Hilton in Oklahoma City. This signature event honors



Oklahoma's all-star athletes, coaches and sports leader who have been exceptional representatives for the state during the 2009 season.

Gengnagel received a Community Services Award as a result of his service to the State of Oklahoma in the Army National Guard and his leadership of his football team.

Gengnagel graduated from Army Basic Combat Training last August before starting his senior year at Elgin High School. After graduation of high school he will attend 17 weeks of Advanced Individual Training as a combat medic/Healthcare Specialist at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Once he completes that training, Gengnagel will attend Northeastern State University in the spring of 2011 and join their football program.

Also honored at the March of Dimes Sports Headliner Banquet was Kevin Durant of the Oklahoma City Thunder, Mike Gundy, head football coach at Oklahoma State University, Gerald McCoy, former Oklahoma University player, among others.

Eric is the son of Susie and Dave Moser of Elgin and brother of Shonda Garrison and her husband, Ben. His proud grandparents are Doyle and Dorie Denny of Durant.



## Twin brothers graduate with honors

Congratulations to Nicholas and Alexander Barrs of Talihina. They graduated as co-Valedictorians from Talihina Public Schools. The brothers will be attending St. Gregory's University in Shawnee.



## Congratulations Donald

Congratulations to Donald Freeman who graduated on Feb. 28, 2010, from the University of Phoenix. While living in Gilbert, Ariz, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and has started his master's degree at Western International University. His grandparents are Ada and John Freeman of Hartshorne.



## Congratulations Shyla

Shyla Rowzee graduated in the top 10 percent of her class from Foy H. Moody High School in Corpus Christi, Texas. Shyla works part-time at Christus Spohn Hospital in the postpartum department.

She placed third in the Health Occupation Student Nursing Assistant Program and will compete in the state championship in April.

Her other extra curricular activities include the Key Club, Science and Health Club, Co-op and the CNA Program. She will graduate as a Certified Nurse Assistant and plans to attend the Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi to further her education in Healthcare.

Shyla is the great-great-granddaughter of four original enrollees, paternal enrollees Lee and Mary (Baker) Carney, maternal enrollees Johnny and Ada (Jefferson) Winlock. Her great-grandparents are the late Lizzie Winlock Carney and Elton Carney.

Her grandparents, Athel and Dorris (Carney) Box, join her parents, Ron and Sheila (Box) Steelman, in wishing Shyla the best of luck.



## Congratulations Thomas

Thomas E. Walker of Oklahoma City graduated from Capitol Hill High School on May 18. He is son of Dana (Walker) Vara and the grandson of the late Mildred Samuels of Oklahoma City. His family is very proud of him.



## Callie graduates with honors

Grandpa Raymond and Grandma Gaye McCoy along with proud parents, John and Carrie McCoy from Meford, Ore., wish to announce the graduation of Callie Jo McCoy from Ashland High School in Ashland, Ore. Callie graduates this month with honors and has received a generous scholarship to attend Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., where she plans to double major in Biology and Foreign Languages. She is the great-granddaughter of original enrollee, Louise Morgan.

Callie is a member of the Southern Oregon Native Education Council. She has proven a real inter-tribal commitment by teaching an after school digital photography class to elementary Indian students each week. She also has earned state recognition with her senior volleyball and basketball teams. She is also a writer for the school newspaper.

## Apply now for free summer academies on Oklahoma college campuses

### State Regents Program targets 8-12th Grade Oklahoma Students

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) middle and high school students living in Oklahoma should take advantage of the Free Summer Academies Program from the board of Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education according to the Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP). Students from 8th to 12th grade can head to Oklahoma colleges and universities this summer to experience life on campus while exploring exciting careers in math, science and technology. Architecture, forensics and "smart sensors" are a few examples of the fields students can explore at the free 2010 Summer Academies.

Each academy explores the latest math, science and technology trends by using fun, hands-on activities and innovative software as students experiment both in the classroom and outdoors. Many academies also include field trips to some of the state's top companies, science facilities and museums.

The academies are being offered at 19 of Oklahoma's college and university campuses in May, June, July and August. Twenty-nine different academies are offered state-wide and last from four days to two weeks. Several academies allow students to live in the campus residence halls, while

others let students travel to and from campus each day.

More than 15,000 Oklahoma students have attended the Summer Academies since 1990. Seventy-three percent of Summer Academies students go to college immediately after high school, compared to 56 percent of all students. While in college, Summer Academies students are more academically prepared than their peers, requiring one-third fewer remedial courses. More than 80 percent of Summer Academies students earn at least a bachelor's degree, compared with 50 percent of all Oklahomans.

Applications are now being accepted for the academies, and many have deadlines. Because the academies are free and enrollment is limited, students are encouraged to apply early. To qualify, students need to be entering eighth through 12th grade this fall. Officials emphasize the academies are not exclusive to top students, but instead are designed to give all students an opportunity to increase their interest and confidence in math, science and technology, and ultimately, expand their career and educational aspirations.

Academy descriptions, academies by grade level, and contact information are available at [www.okhighered.org/summer-academies](http://www.okhighered.org/summer-academies). Students can also get information from their school counselors or by calling 1-800-858-1840.

## Congratulations James

James H. Johnson received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from the University of Oklahoma during their commencement exercises on May 15, 2010. James is the son of Tracy Wilson of Oklahoma City, and the grandson of Leona Wilson of Chickasha and the late Randall Wilson. James is also the great-grandson of the WWI Choctaw Code talker, Calvin Wilson.

James currently volunteers at the Health for Friends Clinic that provides healthcare for very low-income, uninsured Norman residents with no other resources for medical assistance. He is employed as a Leasing Agent at the Commons on Oak Tree and is a member of Victory Christian Center in Norman. He plans to serve in the military and pursue a career in medicine. James and his family are very appreciative to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for supporting his academic achievements!



## Congratulations Eillyott

Eillyott Lucas graduated from Oklahoma City University with a bachelor's of science degree in political science on May 8, 2010. She plans to obtain her master's degree in the University of Oklahoma.

Eillyott received the Gates 10-year scholarship, along with others. She graduated from Holdenville High School with honors and was one of the class valedictorians. She sends a special thanks to the Choctaw Nation for its assistance.

## Family celebrates its 2010 graduates

Ronald Wayne Zimmerman Jr. graduated from Harrah High School in Harrah. He is the son of Ronald Sr. and Sharon Zimmerman, the grandson of Sandra Wymer (Petty), and the great-grandson of W.D. Beal.



Also graduating is George Raymond Wymer III from Pomona High School in Arvada, Colo. He is the son of George II and Miranda Wymer, the grandson of Sandra Wymer (Petty), and the great-grandson of W.D. Beal.

Tammy Renae Blankenship also graduated this month from Boswell High School in Boswell. She is the daughter of Tommy and Sharon Blankenship, granddaughter of Portia (Petty) and Melvin Blankenship, and the great-granddaughter of W.D. Beal.



## Pyle to attend grad school

Aaron Pyle of Antlers will begin work on a Master of Science in Social Work with a concentration in Community and Administrative Leadership at the University of Texas - Austin. Aaron is the youngest child of Alvin Pyle and Janet Lynn Pyle. He is an active member of the Central Texas Inter-Tribal community, and has devoted much of his young career to promoting Native American culture.

As an undergraduate at Texas State University he served as president of the school's Native American Student Association. He currently holds the position of Programs Director for the Indigenous Cultures Institute, a Native advocacy non-profit organization.



## Congratulations Annie

The family of Annie E. Cole Greenwood Renteria would like to congratulate her on a job well done. Annie graduated from Moyers High School on May 13, 2010.

Annie is the middle child of Jamie Greenwood and Guadalupe Renteria and the granddaughter of Myatt T. Greenwood, the late Mildred E. Greenwood, and the late Raul-Paula Renteria.



## Congratulations Joshua

Joshua Philip Ward, grandson of Imogene Taylor formerly of Broken Bow, is a 2010 graduate of Grove City High School in Grove City, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus. He will depart for Parris Island, S.C., for Marine Corps boot camp on Sept. 7, 2010. He is currently training with the Marines each weekend to prepare him for actual recruit training. His interests include art, music, martial arts, and he is an active member of Briggs Road Baptist Church in Columbus. He parents are William and Salean Marolt of Grove City. He has two sisters, Allison Marie Marolt and Sarah Christine (Ward) (Mrs. Brantley) Wiggins. He is the great-grandson of the late Ellis and Susan Taylor of Broken Bow and a great-great-nephew of the late Choctaw Councilman and Historian Charley Jones.

Joshua's family and friends congratulate him on the completion of his education and proudly encourage him in his military pursuit.



## Congratulations Tyler

Tyler Bible graduated from Moss High School on May 17, 2010, and plans to attend Eastern State College in Wilburton in the fall. He has been active in sports, 4-H, and F.F.A.

Tyler will be staying in the Choctaw Dorms while attending college and taking classes pertaining to agriculture.

He would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for its help at the Hughes County Premium Sales and for the financial help for college. He is a descendant of original enrollee Emory Goodwin Howard.



## Martin receives prestigious teaching award

Dr. Janna (Storey) Martin received a prestigious teaching award from the University of Oklahoma. She was bestowed the honor of "Most Inspiring Faculty Member."

The student athletes at the University of Oklahoma chose four faculty members for this award. President Dan Boren, Athletic Director Joe Castiglione, coaches, and student athletes were among approximately 600 people to attend the scholastic breakfast ceremony on April 6, 2010.

Dr. Martin teaches in several departments at OU, including Human Communications and Women Studies. Her education duties also include training graduate teachers in the Department of Communication.

She lives in Norman with her husband Russ and three children Michael, Megan and Matthew. She is the daughter of Jan and Charlene Storey of Idabel. Janna's heritage with the Choctaw Nation runs deep throughout her family. Her great-great-grandmother was Sally Washington Harris, who attended Wheelock Academy. Her great-grandmother, Maggie Elizabeth Harris Storey was an original enrollee. Her grandparents Harris and Ila Mae Storey were also proud members of the Choctaw Nation.



# Choctaw Nation launches DARE program in area schools

By Larissa Copeland

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., program has been around since 1983, but has only recently made its way to the Choctaw Nation. With budget cutbacks affecting many school districts over the past few years, many schools have unfortunately had to cut the D.A.R.E. program as well. The program, which provides police officer-led in-class lessons to students about drug abuse and overcoming peer pressure, is one the Choctaw Nation wanted to start for years and, thanks to the help of federal funding, was able to implement this year.

"We've been wanting to get a D.A.R.E. program started within the Choctaw Nation for the past three or four years," said John Hobbs of the tribal police department. "Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton thought it would be a great way to assist our communities so we applied for and received a federal com-

munity policing tribal grant to fund the officer position."

Nathan Calloway, the community relations officer who's been with the tribal police for almost two years, recently stepped up to fill the D.A.R.E. officer position.

Calloway has spent much of this spring school semester visiting with 5th and 6th grade students as part of the D.A.R.E. initiative. "I go to the schools weekly and talk to the kids about drug abuse obviously, but I also spend a lot of time focusing on peer pressure, building confidence, teaching strategies to get out of problems and ways to resist pressure," he said.

One tool Calloway uses as an icebreaker when he meets with the kids is a 2010 Chevrolet Camaro 2SS police vehicle. "The car gets the kids talking. They come out and look at the car, ask questions and then they seem to loosen up around me," he said. "The kids are surprisingly very open and ask a lot of



mature, relevant questions."

The car is also the result of federal funds. "We were able to purchase our new D.A.R.E. vehicle, the Chevy Camaro, with stimulus funds we received," said Hobbs. "We were only one of four agencies that received these funds so we feel grateful for that. And since D.A.R.E. is a new program for us, we're happy to have this vehicle as a means to connect with the

kids."

The Camaro is a fully equipped police vehicle, with a few extras added to make it more appealing to the kids. Along with the standard radio, siren, and lights, this car also was outfitted with a large amount of additional lights on the front, back and underneath, along with a contemporary style of decals.

"Since our tribe isn't on a

reservation and our tribal kids are located all throughout our 10-1/2 counties, we thought the best way to reach them was to reach out to the entire community," continued Hobbs. "Our program is offered to all schools within the Choctaw Nation. We're glad to be able to pick back up where other departments had to leave off due to budget cuts."

"Our focus is on the rural schools throughout southeastern Oklahoma, the schools that might not have these resources readily available to them," stated Calloway. "Drug abuse and peer pressure happen in small towns the same as it does in big cities and the kids in rural school districts deserve the same education and mentoring."

And beginning at a young age is vital when it comes to reaching out to the kids. "Teaching them good decision making skills at this age is important because they're suscep-

tible to influence. We want to get to them first so they have the correct information instead of them learning about drugs from a drug dealer or someone without their best interests in mind," said Hobbs. "If this program can keep just one child from getting on drugs by learning to say no and learning the consequences and then making the decision that it's not a life path they want to be on, then this program is a success."

Officer Calloway and the D.A.R.E. Camaro have been met with a very good reception at all the schools he's visited so far and he's looking to expand the program even more during the next school year.

The program is open to all schools within the Choctaw Nation's 10-1/2 counties. Any school district that would like to utilize the Choctaw Nation's D.A.R.E. program can contact Nathan Calloway at the tribal police department at 1-800-522-6170, ext. 4003.

## CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA BOOK STORE

### Birthday Cards & All-Occasion Cards



A one-of-a-kind all-occasion card has just become available through the Book Store. The front of the card features artwork by noted Choctaw artist Norma Howard and includes greetings in the Choctaw language. Inside each card is a written message in both Choctaw and English. Sold as a single card and envelope for \$2 each.



inside:

"A time to weep,  
and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn,  
and a time to dance."  
Ecclesiastes 3:4

"Nishkin okchi  
aivlhpesa mikmvt  
yukpa aivlhpesa;  
mukhako aivlhpesa,  
mikmvt hihla  
aivlhpesa."  
Ecclesiastes 3:4

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Happy Birthday – single \$2



Memories – single \$2



Yakoke card – 20 pack  
SALE \$12



Christmas card – single \$2  
20 pack \$20



Get Well – single \$2

Please send the following quantities:

\_\_\_ Christmas card – Single: \$2 ea.      \_\_\_ Get Well card – Single: \$2 ea.  
\_\_\_ Christmas card – 20-pack: \$20 ea.      \_\_\_ Yakoke card – 20-pack: SALE \$12 ea.  
\_\_\_ Memories card – Single: \$2 ea.      \_\_\_ Happy Birthday – Single: \$2 ea.  
\_\_\_ Happy Birthday Moon – Single: \$2 ea.      \_\_\_ All-Occasion card – Single: \$2 ea.

Ship to: \_\_\_\_\_ Check payment method:  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_\_\_ Check \_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
– NO CASH PLEASE –  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ If paying with a credit card:  
State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Charge my:   
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## INROADS seeking internships for business and industry

See if the following sounds appealing if you are a Choctaw high school senior or college student with an interest in business and industry: A paid multi-year internship with a top company, customized skills development training, unparalleled networking opportunities with career minded peers and corporate executives, year-round professional and personal coaching and guidance, a corporate mentor, access to scholarship opportunities, free tutoring – and a great potential for a full-time career after graduation from college.

If so, then you may be a candidate for INROADS, a program that is recommended by the Choctaw Scholarship Advisement Program.

INROADS seeks high performing minority students for summer internship opportunities with some of the nation's largest companies. It's a rigorous career training process that challenges students to commit to excellence and raise the bar on personal expectations.

INROADS was founded in 1970 by the late Frank Carr to help Blacks, Hispanic/Latinos and Native Americans move

into corporate careers. Carr was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, and quit his executive-level corporate day job and committed to taking swift and decisive action to increase ethnically diverse employees in corporate management in the U.S., and to help change the way these candidates gained entry into the business world.

Carr launched INROADS in his hometown of Chicago with just 25 college student interns and 17 sponsoring corporations. Today, INROADS is an international organization with 40 offices serving more than 2,300 interns at over 200 companies.

INROADS works to develop and place talented minority youth in business and industry and prepares them for corporate and community leadership. INROADS seeks students who want a career-related professional paid internship that can give direct and immediate access to the corporate world. Candidates must be focused on their future and possess the talent and passion necessary to succeed and must commit to a unique

self-development process that will prepare them to be ready to contribute from the first day.

INROADS qualifications include the following:

- Career Interest in Business, Engineering, Computers and Information Sciences, Retail Store Management, Sales, Health or Marketing
- College student attending an accredited college or university
- College 2.8 Cumulative GPA
- High school senior applying or already admitted to an accredited college or university
- High school 3.0 cumulative GPA

INROADS has made Vault's Top 10 Internships list each year since the list was first published in 1993 and has made the list once again for 2010, as INROADS celebrates its 40th anniversary. Vault is widely considered one of the Web's best resources for career intelligence.

To learn more visit the Frequently Asked Questions or the Apply Online sections on the INROADS Web site www.inroads.org.

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Jolene Christine Atencio



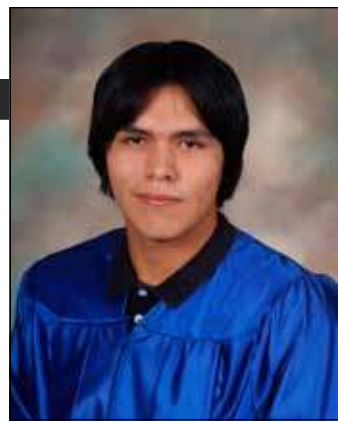
Shawn Black



Francis Brown



Rachel Chalepah



Warren Clegg Jr.

# Jones Academy



Sarah Harrison



Ronnie Leach



You are beginning a new journey...

Good Luck!!!



Tracy Lewis



Maranda Rosiere



Stewart Simpson



Micah Tiger



Stephanie Trujillo



Christen Leigh Voice



Linda Williams



Olivia Williams

**Jolene Christine Atencio** is the 18-year-old daughter of Renee Cata and Joseph Atencio of San Juan Pueblo, N.M., and the granddaughter of Pat and Irene Cata. She has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne High School for six years. Jolene's activities include Yearbook and FCCLA. Her plans after high school are to attend college in New Mexico and become a nurse or a cosmetologist.

**Shawn Black** is the 18-year-old son of Kawa Black Jr. and Sharon Newbreast of El Reno. He is the grandson of Agnes Little Hawk and Kawa Black Sr. of El Reno. Shawn has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne Public School for five years and is involved in track and weightlifting. Shawn will attend Eastern Oklahoma State College in the fall.

**Francis Brown**, 18, is the son of Gordon Howell of Pawnee and Shelly Brown of Tulsa. He is the grandson of Della and Chief Perez of Tulsa. Francis has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne Public School for the past five years. After graduation, Francis will receive training at the Talking Leaves Job Corps in Tahlequah.

**Warren Clegg Jr.** is the 17-year-old son of Warren Clegg Sr. of Carthage, Miss., and Cynthia Billy of Philadelphia, Miss. He is the grandson of Russell and Corinne Willis of Philadelphia. Warren has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne High School for one year and he is involved in Varsity Baseball. After high school Warren plans to attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University to earn a degree in Wildlife Biology.

**Rachel Michelle Chalepah** is the 18-year-old daughter of Spencer and Victoria Chalepah of Earlsboro, Okla. She has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne High School for two years. Rachel plans on attending the Gordon Cooper Technology Center in the fall and specializing in childcare services.

**Sarah Melissa Harrison** is the 17-year-old daughter of Jerry and Harriet Harrison of Shawnee. She has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne High School for three years. Sarah is enrolled

at Eastern Oklahoma State College and plans to pursue a career in Art or Graphic Design.

**Ronnie Leach** is the 18-year-old son of Mark and Kay Leach of Stillwell. He has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne High School for one year. He is involved in football and baseball. After graduation he plans to attend the Indian Capitol Technology Center in Stillwell.

**Tracy Lewis**, 17, is the daughter of Marcella Torres and the granddaughter of Louisa Resendiz, all of Broken Bow. She has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne Public School for seven years. Her honors include: the Hartshorne/Haileyville Student of Today Award, OSU Academic Achievement Award, National Honor Society, Oklahoma Honor Society, the Superintendent's Honor Roll and the UCO Bronco Merit Tuition Waiver Scholarship. After high school, Tracy plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma to major in accounting.

**Maranda Rosiere** is the 18-year-old daughter of Calvert and Melissa Reading of Stigler. She is the granddaughter of Bobby and Marilyn Simmons of Muse. Maranda has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne High School for two years and is involved in the Choctaw Nation's Learn and Serve Project. Maranda's plans after high school are to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College for two years and then transfer to the University of Oklahoma to study psychology or nursing. Maranda Rosiere has received the Eastern Oklahoma State College Academic Leadership Scholarship and the John T. Liebrand Memorial Scholarship to assist her at EOSC this coming fall. The academic grant will provide \$500 each semester toward her tuition and full room. The Liebrand award, which is administered by the McAlester Scottish Rite, will fund \$1,000 toward Maranda's college expenses. Maranda was also accepted into the Honors Program at EOSC. This program will cover her full tuition for up to 15 hours

**Stewart Simpson** is the 19-year-old son of Warren and Jennifer Simpson and grandson of Wanda and Kenny Justice of Oklahoma City. He has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne

Public School for seven years. His activities include football, weightlifting and track. After graduation, Stewart plans to be gainfully employed until he turns 21 years of age and can train to be a tribal policeman.

**Micah Tiger** is the 19-year-old son of the late Gary and Diane Tiger. He has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne Public School for seven years. His activities include basketball, football, track, FFA, and FCCLA. After high school Micah plans to attend Seminole Junior College and major in psychology.

**Stephanie Trujillo** is the 17-year-old daughter of Leonard Trujillo and Terry Atencio of Espanola, N.M. She has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne High School for three years and is involved in Yearbook and is a basketball manager. After high school Stephanie plans to attend Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa and eventually attend cooking or photography school.

**Christen Leigh Voice**, 18, is the daughter of Shannon M. Voice and Daniel Jimenez and the granddaughter of Toni and Wilson Hitcher, all of Dallas, Texas. She has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne High School for three years and is involved in basketball, softball, Student Council and Yearbook. Her honors include: Basketball District Champions, 2010 Basketball Homecoming Queen, Who's Who, Most Athletic, Best Defense 2007, and the Principal's Honor Roll. Christen plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University and then transfer to the University of Kansas.

**Linda Williams** is the 17-year-old daughter of Martha Henry of Philadelphia, Miss. She has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne High School for four years. After graduation Linda plans to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College and then transfer to a beauty school.

**Olivia Williams** is the 17-year-old daughter of Martha Henry of Philadelphia, Miss. She has attended Jones Academy and Hartshorne High School for four years. After graduation Linda plans to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College to study nursing.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

Phone: 1-877-285-6893  
Fax: 580-326-3087  
E-mail:  
ddavenport@choctawnation.com

JULY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Holiday	6	7 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler By Appt.	8	9 Broken Bow 9:00-12:00 Idabel 1:30-3:00	10
11	12 Durant 8:00-4:30	13 Antlers By Appt.	14	15	16	17
18	19 Durant 8:00-4:30	20 Poteau 11:30-1:00	21 Talihina 10:00-2:00	22	23 Wright City & Bethel By Appt.	24
25	26 Crowder By Appt.	27 Wilburton 10:30-2:00	28 Atoka 9:30-11:30 Coalgate 12:30-2:30	29	30	31

## School of Choctaw Language celebrates finale

With the current school year coming to a close, the Choctaw Nation's Language Department celebrated another year of the Choctaw language being taught within the public school. Their annual celebration that has been affectionately labeled, Finale, by the employees of the language department hosted 40 schools from within the state. Also in attendance were Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council, Little Miss Choctaw Juanita Gonzales and Senior Miss Choctaw Ashton Rachele DiNardo.

Choctaw Nation Language Program Director Jim Parish welcomed the students to the Choctaw Casino's Event



Center and after opening Finale with prayer and the National Anthem, sang in Choctaw by Miss Choctaw Ashton Rachele DiNardo, the keynote speaker, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, was introduced.

Chief Pyle spoke proudly of the revitalization of the spoken Choctaw language. Due to

the spoken Choctaw language being repressed in earlier generations, it was beginning to be completely lost. "I knew our language would keep our culture and history alive and with the help of Joy Culbreath we have been able to succeed. Now classes are taught via the internet internationally."

# Children and Family Services

## Indian Child Welfare Act

In 1978, Congress enacted the Indian Child Welfare Act to address the best interests of Indian children and to promote stability of Indian tribes and families. Certain standards were established for Indian children who were removed from their families. Those standards are to reflect the unique values of the Indian culture. In an effort to preserve Indian heritage, ICWA allows placement preferences for our Choctaw children when they are removed from their home. Our children need stable homes and families that can support these standards. We need your help to keep our children connected to their culture and their families. It is the Choctaw Nation's belief and vision that with the help of loving, caring Choctaw homes, our families can once again become strong.

## Indian Child Welfare

In accordance with the ICWA, our Indian Child Welfare program works on behalf of our Choctaw children and families. Our social workers join with state workers and the courts in working to insure safe and healthy homes for Choctaw children removed from their homes. This includes finding Choctaw foster and adoptive homes to prevent placement in non-Indian homes.

The Indian Child Welfare program is an advocate for residents in the 10-1/2 counties and serves Choctaws nationwide. ICW offices are located in Durant, Hugo, Talihina and Atoka.

## Family Preservation

This is a preventative service which promotes family strength, stability, parental functions and the protection of children. This program is designed to prevent family disruption and out-of-home placement by meeting the needs of a family in times of crisis. The goal is to empower these families to provide adequate and safe care for their children by identifying their strengths, assisting them to find solutions, and supporting self-reliance through short-term services in the home. Services should be provided for a period of approximately 90 days and should not exceed six months. One-time assistance due to sudden crisis situations may be available.

The program services the 10-1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation and serves all tribes. Offices are located in Durant, Atoka, Hugo, Idabel, McAlester and Talihina.

## Family Violence

This program assists Choctaw families who have been in a domestic violence situation. The Family Violence program is designed to help women and children escape a dangerous home life. This program can assist with outreach, prevention, counseling, transportation needs and shelter to tribal members.

To qualify one must reside within the 10-1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation, be in a domestic violence situation (which may consist of physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse), must have a CDIB card, and complete a domestic violence intake and one counseling session.

Family Violence workers are located in Talihina, Hugo, Idabel and Durant.



## Choctaw Foster Homes

Choctaw foster families are more than just providing a home to an Indian child. They are part of a team that works toward reunifying a child with their family. This includes maintaining a child's social and cultural heritage, serving as a temporary parent to the child, and providing for their basic needs such as food, clothing, and safety. Importantly, Choctaw foster families encourage the child's family to become a stronger family unit for their child to return home. At times, Choctaw foster families actively help in the reunification process. Choctaw foster families must be willing to work towards reunification with the child's biological family, as well as support and help them.

A strong foster care program exists today but the need is greater than people realize.

## Choctaw Adoptive Homes

Many Choctaw children enter foster care and at times can never be returned to their families. These Choctaw children wait to be adopted. We are in great need of families to open their homes and their hearts to these children.

The children are: infants through 18 years of age, sibling groups, children with special emotional, medical or physical needs, children who have experienced multiple out-of-home placements.

As a Choctaw adoptive home, you will provide a permanent, safe and loving environment in which the child can maintain and carry on their Indian heritage. Please help keep our children connected to their culture.

Adoption subsidies are available for qualifying children. Contact Children and Family Services for more information.

## Legal Services

In this day and time, where more and more third parties such as grandparents are raising grandchildren, guardianships are becoming more and more common. A paralegal is available to assist in filing of guardianship actions in tribal court under certain conditions.

The U.S. divorce rate now stands at 50%. Divorce touches most everyone's life. A paralegal is available to assist tribal members with filing divorces through tribal court. A paralegal can assist tribal members in answering legal questions. Also, new grant allows for lawyers to represent tribal members in court if they are victims of domestic abuse. This service is available by phone at 800-522-6170, ext. 2497, and at the Durant tribal complex.

## Choctaw Project SAFE (Striving for an Abuse Free Environment)

Choctaw Project SAFE is a prevention program that provides community awareness to Native American victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Our goal is to enhance the safety of children, youth and adults by supporting activities designed to address and prevent these crimes. The program covers the 10-1/2 county area of the Choctaw Nation. Priority areas include Bryan, LeFlore, and McCurtain counties due to the high number of domestic violence incidences and deaths.

### Community Awareness

Project SAFE will collaborate with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking victim providers, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, health care providers, child care providers, faith-based and/or community based organizations, and educators to create and implement strategies to increase awareness and prevent these crimes. Project SAFE will work with local schools to present a dating violence prevention program that will target grades 6-12. Project SAFE will provide training to our partners and the community that will be specific to responding and assisting with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims.

### Offer Services

Choctaw Project SAFE has partnered with several community organizations as well as other Choctaw Nation programs to offer domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking assistance. These partnerships offer victims services in counseling, treatment, shelter stay, education or housing.

## Are you ready to become a Choctaw foster or adoptive family?

### Requirements:

- You or your spouse must be an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation
- Can be single or married
- Must have the emotional, physical and financial ability to provide for a child's needs
- Must submit to a search of all state and national criminal history records
- Must be at least 21 years of age
- Ensure that no household member has a prior conviction of a sexual offense
- Must attend pre-service training
- Ensure that no household member confirmed child welfare history
- Provide information for a family assessment (home study)

**Children and Family Services office locations:**

Durant: 580-924-8280  
 Atoka: 580-889-1955  
 McAlester: 918-423-4086  
 Talihina: 918-567-4265  
 Hugo: 580-326-3362  
 Idabel: 580-286-2249

**NEEDED!**

**We have a great need for foster homes for Choctaw children!**

**If you meet the qualifications to become a foster parent and want to help a child, please contact Billy Stephens or Lari Ann Brister at 1-800-522-6170.**

## Balloon release held in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month

Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Choctaw Nation Head Start students, the staff of Choctaw Children and Family Services, along with many employees of the Choctaw Nation, gathered in front of the Choctaw Nation complex today to hold a balloon release in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month. The group released 110 blue balloons, one each to represent a child within the Choctaw Nation's 10-1/2 counties who has been removed from their home as a result of child abuse or neglect.

Billy Stephens, senior director of Choctaw Children and Family Services, said the event was held to raise awareness of child abuse, which affects over 3 million children in the U.S. every year. "Every day, four children in this country die as a result of child abuse. Last year, Oklahoma alone had more than 1,100 confirmed investigations," he said. "Our event

today is something we wanted to do to show that the Choctaw Nation cares about our children."

"Those are unfortunate statistics," said Assistant Chief Batton, "and we, as the Choctaw Nation and as a parent myself, want to do everything possible to raise awareness and keep abuse from happening. I'm proud of the steps the Choctaw Nation has taken through our programs to help children and families in these situations."

Native American children face the second highest rate of victimization among any other ethnic group in the U.S. Chief Gregory E. Pyle and the Choctaw Nation have many



programs in place to try to combat this problem and to assist children and families who have been affected by child abuse or neglect. The Choctaw Children and Family Services department offers assistance and preventative services to help strengthen families and keep them intact, when possible.

This is done in the form of intervention, prevention, and education services. Referrals to outside services are also available.

"Child abuse comes in many forms. It can be physical, sexual, emotional abuse, or exposure to domestic abuse, drugs, alcohol or neglect," said

Lari Ann Brister, director of Foster Care and Adoption for the Choctaw Nation. "Our event today was to bring awareness to our community that many of our Choctaw kids are victims of abuse or neglect. Helping our children by preventing abuse are what our programs are all about. We want to educate parents, strengthen families, and bring those kids back home."

The balloon release today was one of many activities the Choctaw Nation has done during the month of April in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month. Those activities include placing blue

pinwheels along the sidewalks of the tribal complex, handing out blue ribbons, pens, pencils, and bracelets, along with posting presentations and displays at all the field offices throughout the Choctaw Nation's 10-1/2 counties.

The Choctaw Nation has a strong foster home program in place but has a need for more Native American foster families. If you would like to become a foster parent, or if your family is in need of assistance due to domestic or child abuse, contact Lari Ann Brister in Children and Family Services at the Choctaw complex at 800-522-6170, ext. 2635.

Anyone who believes a child is being abused or neglected, has a legal responsibility to report it. Reports can be made at any time to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-522-3511, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Virgil Armstrong meets Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Community Gathering in Flagstaff, Ariz., on April 18.



Chief Pyle says hello to Jack and Roseanne Russell of Prescott Valley, Ariz., at the Flagstaff meeting.



Taylor Garcia, her mom Darby, Chief Pyle and Phillip M. Bounds who presented a beautiful prayer fan to the tribe.

## CHOCTAW GATHERING HELD IN FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA



Assistant Chief Batton, Harrison Frazier, Chief Pyle, Priscilla Frazier and Bill Weeks.



Jackie and Dick Reynolds enjoy visiting with Assistant Chief Batton.



Charitee Downs, Kristina Jorgenson, Mickey Peercy, Mary Lozania, Carolyn Brokeshoulder.



Chief Pyle and John Thrasher, a candidate for U.S. Congress in Arizona.



Merrylyn Moore of Peach Springs, Ariz., and Chief Pyle.



Zsa Zsa Mathis and Oneida Winship drawing door prize tickets.



## Labor Day! FAST PITCH

SEPTEMBER 3-5

at the Choctaw Capitol Grounds  
in Tushka Homma, Oklahoma

\$150 entry fee – money orders only  
made out to Choctaw Nation Fast Pitch

– Deadline for entry is August 13, 2010 –  
For more information, please call 580-924-8280  
or toll-free 800-522-6170, Ext. 2224, or fill out  
the application below and return to our office

Name of team \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one:

Men's team *or* Women's team

and return to:

Larry Wade  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702-1210

## Southeastern hosts Native American graduation reception

Southeastern Oklahoma State University hosted the fourth annual Native American Graduation Reception May 12 in the Glen D. Johnson Student Union.

The 2009-10 SE graduating class consists of 201 Native American students from the following tribes: Caddo, Cherokee, Cheyenne-Arapaho, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Delaware and Citizen Band of Potawatomi.

Joy Culbreath, Executive Director of Education for the Choctaw Nation and alumna of Southeastern, congratulated the students and encouraged them to continue with their education and careers. She also expressed appreciation to the University and Chris Wesberry (Coordinator of the Native American Center for Student Success at Southeastern) for all of their efforts in assisting Native American students.

Southeastern has a long and successful history of providing higher education opportunities for Native American students. The University service area covers significant parts of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations and partners with the tribes to provide specialized services for all Native American students.

## ATTENTION GOSPEL SINGERS

If you would like to be on Sunday's agenda during the 2010 Labor Day Festival, please contact Sabrina Turner during the week of **July 5-9.**

*Names will be taken on first come first serve basis.*

**Sabrina Turner**  
Executive Assistant  
Choctaw Nation  
of Oklahoma  
Travel Plazas  
PO Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702  
580-924-8280  
sturner@choctawnation.com

## 8TH ANNUAL CHIEF PYLE LABOR DAY GOLF TOURNEY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

### Team Cash Prizes

1st Place  
2nd Place  
3rd Place

### Individual Prizes


Closest to Pin  
Longest drive

- Hosted by Sycamore Springs Golf Course, Wilburton, OK
- 9 hole, Par 36
- 4-person Mixed Scramble, 18 holes
- Teams selected by Handicap, Blind Draw
- First Group of Teams tee off at 9:00am, 2nd group at 1:30
- 18 Teams, 36 Golfers for each start time
- No requests for partners. 100% Blind Draw
- \$50 Entry Fee/ Mulligans: 2 for \$10 (includes cart rental, Golf shirt, and Goodie Bag)
- Door Prizes will be given. (must purchase mulligan tickets to be eligible)

Deadline to Enter: August 13th  
First 72 Registered Golfers Will be Accepted

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, ST, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Valid Handicap Card required) Tee Time: 9am or 1:30pm  
Mulligan Purchased: Yes or No (circle one)

Mail Entry Form to Kevin Gwin, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702  
Enclose Money Orders or Cashier's Check Payable to: 8th Annual Greg Pyle Labor Day Golf Classic  
For More Information call Kevin Gwin 580-775-3982 or Brad Clay 580-372-3788

## Choctaw Nation Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament

**Saturday, September 4**

First 12 teams accepted  
Maximum 10 players per team  
Entry fee: \$125 (non-refundable)

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Team Captain \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Form of payment:  
Cashier's Check or Money Orders Only  
No personal checks accepted

Mail entry to:  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Co-ed Volleyball Tournament  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702  
Attn: Rebecca Hawkins

Deadline for entries:  
4:30 p.m. August 20, 2010

USA Volleyball Grass Rules enforced

For more information:  
580-924-8280, Ext. 2212 or 2258



**19th Annual Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival**  
5km Race / Walk

**Saturday, September 4, 2010, 8:00 a.m.**

Historic Choctaw Nation Tribal Council Grounds  
Tuskahoma, Okla. (50 miles SE of McAlester)

\$10 entry if postmarked by Aug 30th  
\$12 after Aug 30th and on race day  
includes beautiful T-shirt (limited number available)

Age categories: 12 years and under, 13-15, 16-19, and  
succeeding 5-year age brackets up to 70 and older for  
women and 75 and older for men

USATF sanctioned, USATF certified course  
Coordinated by DG Productions, LLC

Mail generic race entry card (downloadable at okrunner.com) to:  
Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival 5 km  
Attn: Neal Hawkins, P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702-1210

Register Race Day: 6:30-7:45 a.m.  
Info: (580) 924-8280 Ext. 2319

**FREE COUNTRY CONCERTS!**  
Friday and Saturday Night  
Entertainment Includes:  
Travis Tritt      Stoney LaRue  
Neal McCoy      Others to be announced  
Jimmy Wayne

# 2010 Okla Chahta Gathering



Chief Gregory E. Pyle is brought into the Stealing Partners Dance at the 2010 Okla Chahta Gathering.



Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton are pictured with royalty from California and Oklahoma. Crowned this year as Okla Chahta Princesses for 2010-11 are Tiny Tot Kaili Harrison, Little Miss Nizhoni Felihkatubbee and Sr. Miss Lindsay Reeder.



Stickball excitement.



The Rev. Bertram Bobb is honored for his dedication by Okla Chahta President Bill Harrison.



Veterans, royalty and dancers follow the Choctaw Nation Color Guard into the circle.



Chief Pyle, Anita Navarro of Upland, Victoria Mitchell and Devin Mitchell.



Several at the gathering join in a dance demonstration.



Nizhoni Felihkatubbee and little sister Talao of Corona, Calif.



Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Gary Batton present gifts of appreciation to Okla Chahta board members Mike Bryant, Aaron Wilkins, Brenda DeHarrera, Ryan MacKay, Nancy Long, Victoria Harrison, Bill Harrison, Feather Long and Theresa Harrison.



Choctaw Nation Jr. Miss Stephanie Tehauno demonstrates how to use a kiti.



Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and Councilmen Mike Amos, Perry Thompson, Joe Coley, Delton Cox and Jack Austin make a presentation to Okla Chahta.



Members of the Anoli Dance Troupe perform.



Connie Krebbs, Chief Pyle, Derek Walker, Sharon "Dolly" Eskew, Richard Walker, Rhonda Walker, Doug Walker, Wanda Eaton and Assistant Chief Batton.



Ben Rail is picked by the crowd as the winner of the "Ugliest Choctaw" contest.



Terry Billy teaches Choctaw words to youth at the gathering.



Bill Harrison picks teams for the corn game.



Jenee McCaleb and 5-month-old Sylvie.



Dancing in the circle.



Having a picnic are J.C. Kuhns, Imaiya Kuhns and Jennerfer Eggleston-Kuhns.

## Albuquerque meeting enjoyed by Choctaw members



Maximillian Byers, age 4, came to the meeting with his family.



Three-year-old Chaske' Taylor and his dad, Eugene, are pictured in Albuquerque with Chief Pyle.



Thank you, Veronica Ruiz, for helping draw tickets for the door prizes.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Mark Bailore of Clovis, N.M.



Cambria Graff, age 2, and mom, Jennifer Graff.



Language teacher Lillie Roberts is pictured here with James Wise, a retired civil engineer from the Corps of Engineers.



Joe Christie visits with Chief Pyle.



Rocky and Kathleen Wells are pictured with Chief at Albuquerque. Kathleen is a Gospel singer.

# Ceremony 'to find common ground'

Continued from Page 1

Also honored were Chiefs Tuck Arusa Lix Ea of the Pawnee Nation, Daniel Aspberry of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Kangi Duta of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Nation, and Capt. John Rogers Jr., William Shorey Coodey, and Judge Richard Fields of the Cherokee Nation and William Wirt, a friend of the Cherokee Nation.

A small chapel with stained glass windows, situated in the middle of the thousands of centuries-old tombs and headstones, housed the dozens of observers, who ranged in age from the elderly to preschoolers, who came to witness the rededication, storytelling and music of the Native American men who were buried there, as told by members of their respective tribes.

The event, whose purpose was "to find common ground – sacred ground – among the living," was sponsored by the NCAI and was hosted by the non-partisan, non-profit group Faith & Politics Institute, which is known for building bridges between different parties, different religions and different ideologies, according to Dr. Robin Fillmore, director of programs for the organization.

"We saw this (event) as a way to build bridges between nations – to bring together tribal nations and members of Congress to shine a spotlight on the negotiations, on these good feelings that we can have for one another if we can come together in a common and sacred place," said Fillmore. "We had the service rededication and the reading of the Resolution of Apology to the Native Americans which took place by Republican Sen. Sam Brownback, who was one of the instigators on that piece of legislation and who worked hard to make sure that piece of legislation took place."

The reading by Sen. Brownback of the Resolution of Apology to Native Americans, which was signed into law by President Obama on Dec. 19, 2009, was a step in a positive direction for the tribes present. Tribal representatives shook Sen. Brownback's hand and many accepted the apology on behalf of their tribes.

Sen. Brownback, addressing the Native Americans directly, said "There is a rich history here and there is a past wrong... The U.S. government saw Native Americans not as people, but as a problem. This apology is an effort to start a reconciliation process to rebuild relations and it starts now."

The apology, which includes seven acknowledgment and apology points on behalf of the United States, acted through Congress, to the Native peoples of the United States, is for the "years of official deprivations, ill-conceived policies, and the breaking of covenants by the federal government...the many instances of violence, maltreatment and neglect inflicted on Native Peoples...and expresses regret for the ramifications of former wrongs and its commitment to build on the positive relationships of the past and present to move toward a brighter future where all the people of this land live reconciled as brothers and sisters."

NCAI representative Robert Holden, who is of Choctaw and Chickasaw descent, addressed the audience by telling a story from Charles Dickens' meeting with Chief Pitchlynn. He told of how Dickens had asked Pitchlynn what he thought of Congress and he replied, "Congress wants to take dignity from the Natives' eyes."

"Well, today, that dignity is taking a long step in being restored," Holden said. "And from this day we all will do many important things together. It starts here with this (apology), this long process. This is a historic event in the history of this nation," he concluded.

Following the ceremony inside the chapel, which included a song played by Byington on a hand-made flute and a song by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, the two-part event continued outside with a tour of the gravesites of the interred Native Americans and a storytelling at each by a member of that person's respective tribe.

A group of tribal representatives and the staff of the nearly 34-acre Congressional Cemetery, which was founded in 1807 as America's first de facto national cemetery and the interment place



Presley Byington, Eugene Taylor and Terry Cole pay their respects at the grave of former Choctaw Chief Pushmataha.

to nearly 60,000, spent the day before the ceremony cleaning and grooming the lawn areas surrounding the headstones in preparation for the tours.

Presley Byington of Idabel portrayed Chief Pitchlynn, who was principal chief from 1864-1866. Pitchlynn was a well-educated man by any standards at the time, white or Native American, and a strong proponent of education for Choctaw children. Upon completion of his term as chief, he moved to Washington and spent the rest of his life in service as a delegate for the Choctaw tribe, devoting his time to Choctaw claims for lands sold to the U.S. government. According to Byington, who told stories of Pitchlynn to those in attendance, he probably did as much good as a delegate in Washington as he did as chief. "We all have our roles in life and that was his," said Byington, who was dressed head-to-toe in traditional Choctaw dress from Pitchlynn's era. "He did so much good for his people," he said.

Chief Pushmataha, a regional chief from around the 1800s up until his death in 1824, was portrayed by Eugene Taylor of Ada. Taylor is also an employee of the tribe as a security officer at the tribal complex in Durant. He portrayed Chief Pushmataha in first-person and dressed in Choctaw warrior regalia, telling of his journey to Washington. He told how he fought alongside Andrew Jackson and the American Army during the War of 1812 and how if he'd known the betrayal they'd later face from Jackson he "probably would have killed him then and there." Taylor finished by telling of how Pushmataha became ill when he came to Washington on business for the tribe and how he told Jackson on his deathbed, "When I die, let the big guns be fired over me." Upon his death, Pushmataha was given a grand military funeral. "I feel honored to have been able to portray him," Taylor said. "He was one of the greatest leaders of our tribe."

His headstone states: Pushmataha, a Choctaw chief lies here. This monument to his memory is erected by his brother chiefs who were associated with him in a delegation from their nation, in the year 1824, to the General Government of the United States. Pushmataha was a warrior of great distinction. He was wise in council, eloquent in an extraordinary degree, and on all occasions, and under all circumstances, the white man's friend.

Terry Cole, the Choctaw Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, said that he felt honored to visit the cemetery and give rededication to Chiefs Pitchlynn and Pushmataha, both of whom he gives credit for guiding the tribe to where it is today. "To become a great nation, as we have, there must be great leaders such as those who are laid to rest here," he said. "These men were great leaders."

## Interested farmers can sign up for new WIC program

Choctaw Nation's new (WIC) Farmers Market Nutrition Program has had 88 farmers call and request to participate in the program. The program is designed to provide eligible WIC participants with \$30.00 worth of checks that they can spend with local authorized farmers to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables.

The farmers can accept the checks in exchange for their fresh fruits and vegetables only if they have an agreement with Choctaw Nation's (WIC) FMNP and have completed a training meeting with the Choctaw FMNP coordinator. The dates and times during which interested farmers can sign up are:

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

Broken Bow – 10 a.m. at Choctaw Community Center  
Antlers – 2 p.m. at Choctaw Community Center

### THURSDAY, JUNE 17

McAlester – 10 a.m. at Choctaw Community Center  
Durant – 2 p.m. at Choctaw Community Center

### FRIDAY, JUNE 18

Stigler – 10 a.m. at Choctaw Community Center  
Poteau – 2 p.m. at Choctaw Community Center

Farmer's who are interested in the program can still sign up. Just come to one of the meetings on the days specified and we will authorize you at that time, but you have to attend one of the meetings. For more information, farmers can call Peggy Carlton at 1-580-924-8280, Ext. 2303, or 1-800-522-6170, Ext. 2303. A training session is required of all farmers who would like to participate in the program.

## Southeastern Oklahoma Indian Credit Association

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

To be eligible to apply, a person must reside within the 10 1/2 county service area of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized tribe.

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

## DFW Native American Chamber of Commerce in new location

DFW Native American Chamber of Commerce has relocated to 555 Republic Drive, Ste 200, Plano, TX 75074. They may be contacted by phone at 972-422-9192 or by fax at 972-422-9193. Web site is www.dfnacc.org.

## COME JOIN US THIS FALL!



## Enroll Now @ Jones Academy!

We are accepting applications for the 2010 Fall Semester. We have openings in specific grades 1-12. **Tour our elementary school facilities and dorms.** Come Join Us! Be a Part of the Future! Take advantage of the residential program benefits:

- Tutorial Assistance for All Grades (1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- Rewards for Academic Achievement
- High School Graduation Expenses Paid/ Scholarships
- Career Counseling/College and Post- Secondary Preparation
- Voc-Tech Training
- Summer Youth Work Program
- Medical and Counseling Services Provided
- Alternative Education Program
- Traditional/Cultural Activities
- Recreational Activities & Educational Trips
- Agriculture Program

Please call for a tour or an application @ toll free (888) 767-2518 or access [www.choctawnation.com](http://www.choctawnation.com) or write to:

Jones Academy  
HCR 74 Box 102-5  
Hartshorne, OK 74547

# Choctaw Nation hosts 3D Intertribal Bow Shoot

By Karen Jacob

Choctaw Nation Cultural Resources Department hosted its first 3D Intertribal Bow Shoot May 15 after the Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk. Cyndi Houser, Assistant Youth Coordinator of Cultural Resources, stated, "With this being our first intertribal bow shoot, we had a nice representation from both tribes and extended an invitation to other tribes. Our attempts are to get back to the traditions.

"Bow shooting is becoming very popular with the different tribes. Most are using longbows, as was one of the requirements for this bow shoot," Houser said. "We attend a cornstalk bow shoot in the fall hosted by Cherokee Nation. Other tribes also host their own monthly bow shoots. This is the first of many 3D Intertribal Bow shoots that the Choctaw Nation will host."

The Intertribal Bow Shoot had three teams participate with each team having five members. First place went to the Cherokees, second to the all-male Choctaw team and third went to the almost all-female Choctaw team. The Cherokee team was Jesse Grayson, Web Grayson, Jeremiah Birdtail, Donnie Birdtail and Anna Birdtail. The all-male Choctaw team was Al Gurganus, Jody Waugh, Joey Waugh, Corey Sheffield and Ramsey Williston. The almost all-female Choctaw team was Pam Waugh, Cyndi Houser, Raina Kingery, Caleb Taylor and Amy Pugh.

Choctaw Nation started their bow shoot program five years ago. The monthly bow shoots start in March and end in October. Even though awards are given monthly, the scores are also cumulative for the last bow shoot in October where an overall award is given. The bow shoot is open to anyone. The next bow shoot will be on June 12 with a 10 a.m. sign-in. Come enjoy fellowship, friendly competition and fun!



## Choctaw Traditional Pottery Classes

### DURANT

June 20th, June 27th, July 18th  
5:30-9:30 p.m.

Cultural Events Building, 4451 Choctaw Rd.

### POTEAU

June 21st, July 5th, July 19th  
5:00-9:30 p.m.

Poteau Field Office, 208 B Street

### IDABEL

June 22nd, July 6th, July 20th  
12:30-4:30 p.m.

Idabel Field Office, 2408 Lincoln Rd.

### ATOKA

June 10th, June 24th, July 8th, July 22nd  
5:30-9:30 PM

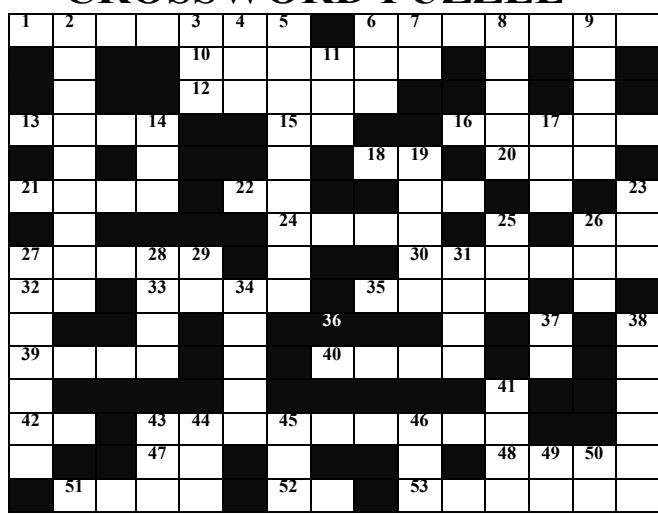
Atoka Field Office, 1410 S. Gin Rd.

### OKLAHOMA CITY

July 11th  
1:00-5:00 p.m.

OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance  
5230 S. Youngs. Blvd.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### Across

1. Wolf
6. Make into evening
10. Ten
12. Chicken
13. Harden, gel
15. Perhaps
16. High
18. Euphonic Word before Tok
20. Kill
21. Rotten, foul
22. I, me (First person singular, before neuter verb)
24. No
26. Must not
27. Buzzard
30. Woodpecker
- 32.. Used before "tok" or "tuk" as in \_\_tok, \_\_tuk
33. Eagle
35. Fish
39. Skunk
40. Bear
42. I (first person singular, found after all active verbs)
43. Goat
47. I, my
48. Lead, dart (bullet)
51. Rest
52. To go
53. Doe

### Down

2. Turkey
3. Owl
4. Creek
5. Rooster
6. Ring
7. We
8. Room
9. Bird
11. Water
14. To arrive (there)
17. Aloft, heavenly
19. Horse
23. Cow
25. My father
26. Thing
27. Sugar
28. Woods
29. Changed from Ish
31. Reside
34. Raccoon
36. My
37. Tea
38. Puppy
41. Squirrel
43. You
44. I am
45. Panther, lion
46. Dog
49. The
50. Usually

Answer will be published in the July BISHINIK

# The Choctaw River Cane Flute



### Question:

I'm a flute-maker. What can you tell me about old Choctaw flutes? How were they made? How were they used? Any information would be helpful.

Thanks, Creston

### Answer:

Flutes have been a part of Choctaw traditional culture for a very long time. In the Choctaw language, a traditional flute is called uskala. This term was actually created by combining the Choctaw words oski or "river cane" and ola "to make a sound". So, to our ancestors, the word "flute" literally meant "river cane that makes a sound". The Choctaw phrase for "playing a flute" is uskala olachi (Byington 1915:453).

In the past, Choctaw flutes were used somewhat differently than the ways that flutes, even Native American flutes, are usually used today. Records indicate that at the time of European arrival some of the more powerful Southeastern chiefs had flute players in their chiefly courts, who played flute music to welcome guests. It is likely that some ancestral Choctaw chiefs, such as Tvshkalusa, had these flute players as well. Also during this period, the early Chickasaw, and probably also the ancestors of the Choctaw, blew into flutes on the battlefield before making an attack (see Swanton 1946:628-629).

Nevertheless, over the last couple of centuries, and perhaps ever since flutes first became a part of Choctaw society, they have mostly been a tool of the Choctaw medicine people. Most notably, alikchi played flute tunes the night before and during important

stickball games to help secure their team's success (Densmore 1943:128-132). There is little evidence to suggest that Choctaw flutes were traditionally played during courtship, as they were by the Plains Tribes to our west. In fact, at least some of the Choctaw men who used them made efforts to keep their flutes away from women (Howard and Levine 1990:30).

Most Choctaw flutes were traditionally made from large pieces of river cane about 1 inch in diameter. The following description for making and playing a traditional Choctaw river cane flute has been provided to "Iti Fabvssa" courtesy of Presley Byington, a master Choctaw river cane flute-maker from the Idabel area:

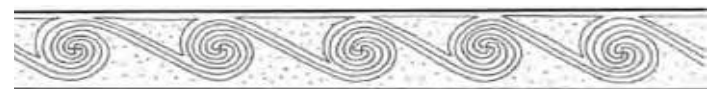
The best season for harvesting river cane for flutes spans roughly from the beginning of October to the end of April. During this time of year, the walls are thick and the cane is strong. If it is cut during the hot months, the cane walls are thin and can collapse or crack during drying. After the cane is cut, it is allowed to dry for approximately 2 weeks before a flute is made from it.

Thick pieces of river cane are hollow, almost like a piece of pipe, except that the cane has solid sections called "nodes" that are spaced at regular intervals. The nodes are visible on the outside as small raised bands around the circumference of the cane.

The upper end of the flute is formed by cutting the dried cane off flat about six inches above a node. Two small holes, roughly 1/4" in diameter are then burned through the wall of the cane, one on each side of the node. The interior of this node is left in place so that it forms a solid wall through the inside of the flute. The outer surface of the cane between these burned out holes is indented slightly to accommodate a thin splint of cane that is tied in place between the two holes.

The lower end of the flute is formed by cutting the cane off flat about eight inches below the node mentioned in the previous paragraph. If any other nodes are present on the emerging flute, they are burned out from the base. This creates a hollow area in the lower eight inches of the instrument. Into the walls of this lower section are burned the finger holes that are used to play the flute.

Different Tribes have different traditional arrangements of finger holes. Most Choctaw flutes have two finger holes. Most flutes made by other Southeastern Tribes have from between zero and three finger



## Iti Fabvssa



Robert Henry

holes, while the flutes made by Plains Tribes have five or six finger holes.

Choctaw flutes are played by putting the mouth over the upper end of the flute and blowing through it. As air hits the solid node, it is forced out of the upper hole and over the thin splint of cane attached to the outside of the flute. This causes the splint to vibrate and make a sound. This sound resonates through the hollow lower chamber of the flute. The player's two index fingers can be used to plug up one or both of the finger holes. This effectively changes the size of the lower chamber of the flute, creating different sound pitches. The player can also cap the big hole at the base of the flute to get another pitch. The different pitches are used by the player as notes for creating a song (Byington 2010).

Byington, Cyrus  
1915 A Dictionary of the Choctaw Language. Bureau of American Ethnology Vol. 46, Washington.

Byington, Presley  
2010 Interview on Choctaw River Cane Flutes for Iti Fabvssa May 26

Please mail your questions to Iti Fabvssa c/o BISHINIK, P.O. Box 1210, Durant, OK 74702, or e-mail to bishinik@choctaw-nation.com with "Iti Fabvssa" in the subject line.

Densmore, Frances  
1943 Choctaw Music. Bureau of American Ethnology 136:101-188.

Howard, James and Lindsay Levine  
1990 Choctaw Music and Dance. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Swanton, John R.  
1946 The Indians of the Southeastern United States. Bureau of American

Ethnology Bulletin 137



# OBITUARIES

## Wilma Marie (Hartman) Sparks

Wilma Marie (Hartman) Sparks, 70, of Wilson passed away April 12, 2010, in Ardmore. She was born Jan. 17, 1940, in Leon to the late Charles D. Hartman and Carrie (Tom) Hartman.

Marie was born and raised in Leon, attending school there. She lived in Boston, Mass., for many years raising her children, moving back to Oklahoma in 1978. Marie and the late Johnny "Leroy" Sparks were married April 7, 1983, in Ardmore. She was a dedicated mother; sister and friend who loved to spend time with her family and friends. She enjoyed fishing, working on her home, sewing, crafts, helping others and she loved the Lord and worshipped him through her church, music and the path she walked. She was an accomplished cook and loved to share her table with all.

Preceding her in death were her parents; husband Johnny "Leroy" Sparks on March 2, 2007; sisters Lula Mae Taylor and Cisero Haymes; brother Roy Wayne Hartman Sr.

She is survived by daughters Deborah Bailey of Framingham, Mass., Rose Boghos and husband Nabil of Middleton, Mass., sons Elliot Vanetzian and wife Caryn, and Charles Vanetzian and wife Michelle both of Medway, Mass.; sister Vera Mae Leibrock and Dale Jones of Lone Grove; brothers Larry Hartman and wife Theresa of Leon, Johnny Hartman and wife Patty of Wilson and Sonny Hartman of Leon; sister-in-law Jean Brooks of Leon; and nine grandchildren; special friends Harold and Dorma Claypool, Mary Quinn and Jackie Rust; and other family and friends.



## Vernie Battiest

Vernie Battiest, 65, of Wright City, passed away Jan. 30, 2010, at his residence. He was born July 12, 1944, in Battiest, the son of George and Hester (Hardy) Battiest. Vernie was a member of the Kulli Chito Presbyterian Church in Bethel. He enjoyed meeting people, going to gospel singings and listening to Choctaw hymns.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Bernice Marlow and Suzanna Battiest; two sons, Vernie Battiest Jr. and Benedict Williams.

He is survived by two sons, Robert David Battiest of Eagletown and Kevin Carterbey of Golden; two grandchildren, Natasha Battiest of Holly Creek, Kayla and Gerald Peasha of McAlester; great-grandson Dustin; three brothers, Ricky and Sam Battiest of McAlester, Wayne Battiest of Wright City; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Nettie and Cecil Caldwell of Wright City, Mattie and Angel Mendoza of DeQueen, Ark.; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

## Jean (Skelton) Carnes

Jean (Skelton) Carnes, 89, of Wright City, formerly of Hugo, passed away April 17, 2010, in Tulsa. Jincy Jean Skelton Carnes was born July 18, 1920, in Hugo to James and Nancy (Hickman) Skelton and had lived in the Wright City area since 1979 after living most of her life in Hugo.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother Martin Skelton.

Jean was a member of the Choctaw Nation and was actively involved in the United Methodist Church where she was a member. She spent her early years at Wheelock Academy, followed by Chilocco Academy and then graduated from Goodland Academy. Jean loved her animals and loved church activities.

She is survived by three sons, Larry Keyes of Dallas, Texas, David Keyes of Wright City, and Todd Keyes, also of Dallas; five grandchildren, Lisa Emmons, Tricia Keyes, Jacob Keyes, Todd Keyes and Jeanaka Keyes; four great-grandchildren, Jayden Keyes, Easton Emmons, Sidney Emmons and Emily Emmons; along with many other relatives and friends.



## Clara Tolison

Clara Tolison, 74, of Idabel, passed away Nov. 2, 2009, in Paris, Texas. She was born Oct. 18, 1935, in Boswell to Mose and Encey Brewer Tom. She was a lifetime resident of McCurtain County and was of the Pentecostal faith.

Clara was very giving, donating her time to assist the S.O.S. shelter for families. She loved to sew, quilt and work crossword puzzles, but most of all she enjoyed her time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Clara was preceded in death by her parents; husband Bill Tolison; sons Jimmy Dewayne Tolison and Herbert "Hoss" Tolison; grandson Asa Dean Tom; one sister and two brothers.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Michael Dean and Becky Tom of Ochalata; daughters and sons-in-law, Karen Sue and John Tijerina of Baytown, Texas, and Janice and Steven Strain of Valliant; brothers, Melvin Tom of Broken Bow, James Tom of Poteau, J.R. Tom of Idabel, Chris Tom of Louisiana; sisters, Lawanda Gragg of Idabel, Patricia Oden of Baytown, Vanessa Tom of Clarksville and Betty Tom of Hugo; 13 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; special friend Betty Deramus; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.



## Jack Walton Ashford

Jack Walton Ashford, 87, of Pittsburg, Calif., passed away April 19, 2010, at his home. He was born in Bokchito, Indian Territory, on Dec. 1, 1922, to Clydy Ashford and Caroline Jones Ashford. Jack was the son of an original enrollee in the Choctaw Nation. He attended school in Oklahoma.

He joined the Army Air Corps in 1941 and served during WWII at the Independence, Kan., Air Base where he met and married Amy Phillips. They later divorced. To that union was born Ronnie G. Ashford. Ronnie still lives in Independence. Jack later married Aurora Verusco in Pittsburg, Calif. To that union was born Gary Ashford, who preceded him in death.

Jack retired from the shipyards in California. He lived in California most of his life but always considered himself an "Okie".

Jack Ashford is survived by one son, Ronnie Ashford, of Independence, five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.



## Ina Lee Pruitt

Ina Lee Pruitt was born March 8, 1948, in Coleman to Carl Simion and Lillie Florance (Hyde) Hokett and passed away on April 3, 2010, in Durant at the age of 62.

Ina attended school in Johnston and Bryan Counties and worked as a CCA Monitoring Coordinator in child care for almost 25 years. She was of the Baptist faith and she enjoyed gardening, remodeling and fixing things. Her great joy came from caring for and helping people. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and dearly loved her.

She is survived by her children, Sherry Pruitt of Durant and Terry Pruitt and wife Monica of May, Texas; grandchildren, Kristina Pruitt and Kayla Pruitt, both of Durant, Ashley Pruitt, Krista Pruitt, Matt Pruitt and Dylan Pruitt, all of May; brothers and sisters, Shirley Bushong and husband Jim of Odessa, Texas, Greta Campbell and husband Johnny of Antlers, Tilman Hokett and Wylie Hokett, both of Mead, Barbara Peoples and husband Frank of Ardmore and J.D. Hokett of Wapanucka; other relatives and a host of friends.

Ina was preceded in death by her parents and twin sister Nina.



## Paul Lesley Williams

Paul Lesley "Papa" Williams, 78, of McAlester passed away April 17, 2010. He was born on Nov. 2, 1931, in Indianola to Melmer George and Maggie Mae (Beams) Williams.

He grew up and attended school in Indianola. He married Thelma Watson on Sept. 26, 1959, in McAlester. His early years were spent traveling and working in many places, including Idaho, California, Texas and Arizona. He settled in McAlester working as a carpenter and mechanic. He worked for Roy Long's Garage and Moncrief's for many years. He enjoyed farming, hunting and trapping and spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by wife Thelma L. Williams, of the home; sons Ashley D. Williams and Wesley "Bunk" Williams, both of McAlester; daughters and son-in-law, Marilyn and Joey D. Lalli of Krebs and Scarlet Williams of Krebs; 12 grandchildren, Preston, Cody and Ashton Williams, Cassie Williams, Jeremy, Miranda, Joseph and Lesley Jordan Lalli, Danny Teague Jr. and his wife Jessica, Sheldon, Dalton and Clayton Teague; three great-grandchildren, Jaelynn Teague, Peyton Teague and Bradyn Gaither; brother Bobby L. Williams of McAlester; sister Ruby B. Ketchum of Ulan; sister-in-law Marel D. Williams of McAlester; and several nieces and nephews and cousins and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Melmer "Dick" Williams Jr., Billy Williams and James "Dob" Williams.



## Wauhilla 'Helen' Bohanan Griffin

Wauhilla "Helen" Bohanan Griffin passed away April 16, 2010. She was born Aug. 16, 1935, to Laymon Bohanan and Annie Jefferson in Smithville. She was a proud full-blooded Choctaw who was raised in Kansas by her foster parents, Floyd and Inez Hampton, whom she dearly loved.

Helen immensely enjoyed reading western and detective novels, while spending time with her husband at their home in Richland. She loved watching her children and grandchildren grow up and making sure they were always smiling. She enjoyed gospel music, especially Elvis Presley. She was also a big fan of John Wayne and Star Trek movies. Another of her favorite past times was making beautiful handmade quilts for her family. When outdoors, she enjoyed fishing, gardening, feeding her flock of wild birds and the many dogs she adopted over the years. Her favorite flower was the "Mr. Lincoln" Red Rose.

Helen is survived by husband Robert L. Griffin of Yukon; sons, Robert A. Griffin, also of Yukon, John M. Griffin of Edmond, and Stanley Hampton of Las Vegas, Nev.; sister Wauleah Blachford of Long Beach, Calif.; daughters-in-law, Kim Griffin of Yukon and Ann Bearden of Edmond; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; and niece Clara Taylor of Smithville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, foster parents and five brothers.



## Barbara M. Phillips

Barbara M. Phillips, 78, a resident of Tulsa since 1952, passed away March 23, 2010. She was born on Sept. 18, 1931, in Eufala to John and Ada (Battles) Freeman. Barbara is the great-granddaughter of original enrollee Henry Franklin and Susan (Monks) Battles and granddaughter of Finis Marion and Maggie (Dunlap) Battles.

Barbara was raised around Gowen and Hartshorne. On Nov. 20, 1953, she married Flynn Phillips. Together they raised two children. She was a homemaker.

Barbara is survived by her husband of the home; son Kevin and wife Leanne of Fort Worth, Texas; daughter Karen Wanzer and husband Robert of Flower Mound, Texas; sister Mary Weatherford and husband James of Tulsa; grandchildren, Adam Wanzer and wife Kelly, Jerrod, Hunter, and Jana Phillips.



## Sara Jacqueline Blue-McKosky

Sara Jacqueline Blue-McKosky, 32, of Talihina, passed away April 23, 2010. She was born in Antlers March 24, 1978, to Jackie Hoyt and Sybil Christine Blue. Sara loved being outside hunting, fishing, camping and riding four wheelers. She was very happy, always laughing and being very friendly. She loved music and spending time with friends and family.

Sara is survived by her husband, Marty McKosky, of the home; daughters Casey McKosky and Courtney McKosky, also of the home; mother Sybil Marshall of Albion; sisters, Carolyn White of Springer, Quanda Sheldon of McAlester, and Twila Coats of Tahlequah; brother Rusty Jack Blue of Talihina; and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Jackie Blue; stepfather Hestel Marshall; and grandmothers Opal Head and Orgal Blue.

## Elias Roberts Sr.

Elias Roberts Sr., 71, of Wright City, passed away April 18, 2010. He was born April 21, 1932, in Bennington, to Steven and Annie (Homer) Roberts.

Elias was a member of White Sands Church in Valliant. He served his country in the U.S. Army. He loved his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed going to church, gospel singings, traditional Choctaw hymns, fishing, working on cars, yard work, watching Dallas Cowboys and O.U. football. He was an avid Wright City Lumberjax and Broken Bow Savage fan. He loved his dog, Ranger.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Josephine Roberts; son Marvin Roberts; sisters, Carrie Robertson and Mary Jane Bacon; brother Henry Roberts; and half-brother Andrew Bacon.

He is survived by sons, Ricky Roberts of Oklahoma City and Elias Roberts Jr. and wife Phyllis of Broken Bow; daughters, Evelyn K. Tom and husband Nicholas of Phenix City, Ala., Donna Rodriguez and husband Domingo of Wright City, Virginia McCleskey and husband Melvin of Wright City, Barbara Giddens and husband Willie of Broken Bow, Faye Anna and husband Wayne of Wright City and Betty Crosby and husband Willard of Durant; three brothers, Wilson Roberts and wife Sharon of Ada, William Roberts and wife Velma of Arlington, Okla., and Jimmy Roberts and wife Vesta of Boswell; brother-in-law Jimmy Ray Bacon of Broken Bow; 26 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren, with two on the way; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.



## Geary L. Watson

Geary L. Watson, 57, passed away April 22, 2010, in Ponca City. He was born March 27, 1953, in Oklahoma City to Owen and Iva Watson.

Geary was a fluent speaker of his native Choctaw language. He grew up in the Oklahoma City area and graduated from Midwest City High and attended Rose State College. He and Mildred L. DeRoin were married on Jan. 17, 1975, and made their home in Red Rock. Geary was an active member of the Ponca Chapter Native American Church. He was a big sports fan and loved watching OU and OSU football. He enjoyed going to local tribal dances, events and playing golf, but his greatest enjoyment was spending time with his beloved grandchildren.

He is survived by father Owen Watson and sister Lori Anderson, both of Oklahoma City; son Norman Bernal of Taos, N.M.; daughter Antoinette Hopper of Ponca City; adopted son Oliver Littlecook Sr. of Ponca City; sister-in-law Rosella DeRoin of Red Rock; in-laws Doris Hunter of Shawnee and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stonerod of Oklahoma City; grandchildren, Little Bear Littlecook, Tara Littlecook, Ophelia Botone, Angela Botone, Cleve Botone, Ava Botone, Rebecca Botone, Kirsten Thompson; one great-grandson, A.J. Aguilar; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Iva Watson; wife Mildred Watson; daughter Ophelia Bernal; and son Perry Botone Jr.



## Harrell G. Brokeshoulder

Harrell G. Brokeshoulder, 76, passed away Feb. 12, 2010, in Shawnee. He was very proud of his three brothers and six sisters who are living in many places throughout the U.S. They are descendants of the Shawnee warrior, Tecumseh. The family is absentee Shawnee and Choctaw tribes of Oklahoma. Many of their extended family - the Washington, Chisholm, Brokeshoulder, Johnson, Thorpe, Rolette, Greenfeather, and McClellans families - still reside in that part of the country.

Harrell made an impact in many sports throughout his younger years; his main pursuit was golf. He participated in many golf events in the amateur level in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, California and Canada. He won first place in his championship flight division in 1975 and later won the Phoenix Native American Golf Championship in 1979, beating nearly 170 competitors to earn a 6 ft. first place trophy. In 1952-56, he attended Haskell Indian School in Lawrence, Kan., and served in the Kansas National Guard. At Haskell, he made many friends and he met his wife, Joan Maktima, while at Haskell. In 1960, he moved to Flagstaff, Ariz., and worked as a dorm attendant/instructional aide at Flagstaff Boarding School until 1972. He then transferred to Phoenix Indian Boarding. After working 16 years, he accepted early retirement in 1988 due to closure of the school. Harrell had a great life and enjoyed attending many powwows in Arizona and Oklahoma. He was an avid O.U. Sooners fan. He had a strong sense of Oklahoma native pride and encouraged many youth to enhance their native self-identity and self-esteem.

He is survived by son Nick Brokeshoulder and wife Sharon; grandchildren Randall Brokeshoulder, Brent Brokeshoulder, and Audrey Brokeshoulder; sisters and brothers, Loretta Schwarz, Wynona Lumpmouth, Glenda Johnson, Cliff Brokeshoulder, Heelen Arns, Katrina Brokeshoulder, Harry Brokeshoulder, Rita Brokeshoulder, and Eddie Brokeshoulder.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Joan, and parents, Clifton and Minnie Chisholm Brokeshoulder.

## Alecia Marie Powell Farrimond

Alecia Marie Farrimond, 87, passed away April 17, 2010. She was born Dec. 3, 1922, in Healdton to Robert Kelley Powell and Lena Bell Lynn Powell, an original enrollee. Her childhood was spent in the oilfields, where her father worked, until the family settled in Oakland. Alecia graduated from Madill High School, and also attended Murray State College in Tishomingo.

She met Albert Farrimond while working in Oklahoma City and they were married in March 1947 in Oakland. In 1964, they purchased a business in Hartshorne which became the Farrimond Auto Supply. Albert preceded her in death in September 1972. She continued to run the business, and later worked as the Parts Manager for the local Chevrolet dealership. She retired in 1987 and moved back to Oakland, where she lived the rest of her life. She was a member of the Madill Church of Christ and of the American Legion Auxiliary.

She is survived by a daughter Rhonda Farrimond of Madill; son Kendall Farrimond and grandson Adam Farrimond, both of Ardmore; brother and sister-in-law Robert and Frances Powell of Gulfport, Miss.; and numerous nieces and nephews.





# OBITUARIES

## Lizzie Winlock Carney

Lizzie Winlock Carney of Fanshawe passed away May 20, 2010, at the age of 97. She was born May 4, 1913, in Red Oak.

She was a homemaker and a member of Rock Creek Indian Baptist Church in Red Oak.

She was preceded in death by her son, Johnny Lee Carney; daughter Helen Carney Brannon; sister Betty Gaines Owens; and brothers Lewis Harlan Goines, Woodrow Gaines, Robert Winlock; and parents Johnny Winlock and Ada (Jefferson) Winlock Gaines.

She is survived by five daughters, Kathryn Seyler of Fanshawe, Patricia Standridge of Gautier, Miss, Doris Box of Fanshawe, Mary Lou Ellenburg of Wister, and Isabell Carney of Fanshawe; sister Hettie Marie Williamson of Sulphur; 15 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, 24 great-great-grandchildren; other relatives, loved ones and many beloved friends.



## Victor Dale Carshall

Victor Dale Carshall, 50, of Poteau, passed away April 21, 2010. He fought a long, tough fight with diabetes. He was an inspiration to all who knew him during this courageous battle.

He worked at Kenco Plastics for 18 years and in his spare time he loved to fish and play with his five grandsons. He was a loving son, brother, husband, father and papa and friend.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lee Carshall Sr. and two brothers, Lee Carshall Jr. and Kenneth Carshall.

He is survived by his wife, Denise Carshall, who dedicated her life caring for Victor; son Joseph and wife Patty Carshall; two daughters, Jennifer and husband, Jeff Roberts, Emily Anne Carshall; five grandchildren, Bryson, Matthew, and Brandon Carshall, Dallas Roberts and Lucas Cole; mother Ruth Carshall; three sisters, Barbara Box, Linda Loyd and Margaret Legg; two brothers, Mark Carshall and Stanley Carshall; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of other family, friends, and loved ones.



## Joe David 'J.D.' McGee Jr

Joe David "J.D." McGee Jr. was born Aug. 28, 1986, to Wanda Gibby and Joe McGee Sr. He passed from this life on May 21, 2010, at the age of 23 years. He enjoyed playing the guitar and working on his trucks. J.D. also worked part time for Rhynes & Rhodes Furniture. He also enjoyed hanging out and visiting with his friends and family. He was a member of the Baptist faith and attended Faith Temple Pentecostal. He was proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation.

He is survived by his mother, Wanda Gibby-Peters; father Joe McGee Sr.; step-father Tony Peters, all of Bokchito; brothers, Reece Akins, also of Bokchito; Caden McGee of Calera; sisters Cheyenne McGee of Calera; step-sisters Shania Ellis of Oklahoma City; Courtney Rimpel of McKinney, Texas; Toni Cattell and husband Travis of Lake Dallas, Texas; grandparents Lloyd and Syble Clark of Durant; niece Brittany Akins of Bokchito; as well as other numerous aunts, uncles and other family.

He was preceded in death by grandfather Reece Gibby; grandparents, W.A. and Jennie McGee.



## Beverly 'Sue' (Elix) Ghadianloo

Beverly "Sue" (Elix) Ghadianloo was born Dec. 16, 1948, in Durant to Clayburn Elix and Madeline (Peters) Elix and passed away May 13, 2010, at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma in Durant at the age of 61.

Sue lived all her life in Durant and was full-blood Choctaw. She worked for the Choctaw Nation many years in various jobs such as a cashier at the Bingo, provider at the day care and as a hostess at the Casino the past four years.

Sue spent her life serving the public, and enjoyed sewing and watching Deal Time. Her greatest joy was being with all her family. She attended Grace Indian Baptist Church.

Sue was preceded in death by her parents; maternal and paternal grandparents; and husband Bill Long.

She is survived by her sons, Todd, Vance and Vince Long; daughter Leigh Long; grandchildren Shannon and Elijah Long; sisters, Laura, Gwenn, Tammy and Tracey Elix; special cousins Susie Pistubbee and Lucille Ray; former husband Masoud "Mike" Ghadianloo, all of Durant.

## Brad Pierce

Brad Pierce, 38, was born Oct. 7, 1971, in Talihina to "Briar" James and Donna (Phillips) Pierce. He passed away May 10, 2010, in Boswell. He lived in the Boswell area all of his life.

Brad married May Armstrong on Oct. 18, 2008, in Boswell. He worked as a truck driver, mainly driving for Jimmy Clark out of Bennington, hauling construction supplies. Brad loved to spend time with his family and would always lend a helping hand to anybody. He enjoyed horses, hunting, fishing and tinkering with anything that had a motor, "the bigger the better."

He was preceded in death by one brother, Robin Pierce in 1969; great-grandmother "Granny" Emma Phillips; grandfather James Pierce; grandmother Ruth Pierce.

Bradley is survived by his wife, May Pierce, of the home; one son, B. J. Pierce; one daughter, Macey Pierce; three stepsons, Ronald, Jeffery and Waylon Tucker; his parents, James and Donna Pierce; one brother, Clint Pierce and wife Amanda; one nephew, McKenna Pierce; one niece, Hunter Pierce, all of Boswell; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews and a host of friends.



## Virgil Oliver Ott

Virgil Oliver Ott, a longtime Coalgate resident, passed away May 10, 2010, at the age of 71. He was born April 9, 1939, in Talihina to Willie Samuel & Carrie (Billy) Ott.

He attended school in Mowdy, Oklahoma City, Cairo and Coalgate. He married Freda Louise Carnes on Aug. 14, 1957, in Coalgate. He worked in security at the Choctaw Administrative Tribal Complex in Durant. He was a member of the Lone Star Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willie and Carrie Ott; uncle and aunt Bert and Mary Snell; brother Jackson Ott; and half-brother Julius Joe Snell.

He is survived by his wife, Freda Louise Ott; sons Vince Ott and wife Ladonna and Mel Ott and wife Gina, daughters Gayle Salina, Lynn Ott-Clem and Tina Clem and husband Ricky, all of Coalgate; 13 grandchildren, Cassie Salinas, Jennifer Martinez-Garcia, Joshua & Amber Ott, TJ Martinez, Jacob Ott, Raven Ott, Garrie Clem, Katy Ott, Brooke Schuhmacher, Clinton Schuhmacher, Gaven Ott, Robyn Ott, Noah Clem; great-great-grandchildren Caleb Perry, Koda Wainscott, Anthony Garcia; brothers Larry Ott and wife Linda of Dallas, Texas, Manuel Ott and wife Denise of Denton, Texas; Dewayne Ott of Ada; sister Evangeline Ott of Oklahoma City; brother-in-law Ellis Carnes Jr. of Phillips; sisters-in-law Ellen Cole of Durant, Lee Carnes of Caney, Onita Carnes of Madill; along with numerous nieces, nephews and many dear and loved friends.



## Harold Steve Ward

Harold Steve Ward, 56, passed away May 4, 2010, at his home in McAlester. Steve was born Sept. 5, 1953, in Oklahoma City to Luther and Agnes J. (Frazier) Ward. He graduated from McAlester High School. He loved watching sports, especially his favorite teams the O.U. Sooners, Dallas Cowboys and McAlester Buffaloes. He enjoyed puzzle and word find books. Steve enjoyed gospel singing. He loved his nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Steve is survived by mother Agnes J. Ward of the home; sister Lisa Ward of Krebs; nephew G. Shaun Smith of Krebs, niece Mikael Lynn Ham and husband Josh of McAlester; great-nephews Owen Mikael Smith, Garrett Smith and Alick Ham, all of McAlester; great-nieces Ryan Ham, Cascha Ham, Marli Smith, all of McAlester; uncles Lee Roy Ward of Antlers, Lyman Choate and wife Ruby of Broken Bow, Thomas Choate of Tulsa; aunts Aline Ward of McAlester, Juanita Hardee of Broken Bow; special friends Walter Amos, Phyllis Cusher and Bob Pate; numerous cousins and other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Luther Ward, and brother Clendon Earl Ward.



## Vivian Smith Crow

Vivian Smith Crow of Leawood, Kan., formerly of Spiro, was born July 6, 1909, in Spiro to Ree Vance and Lena B. (Moore) Smith. She passed away May 20, 2010, in Leawood at the age of 100.

She attended Lindenwood College in St. Charles, Mo., and graduated from the University of Oklahoma. She was a member of St. John's United Methodist Church, was an active member of P.E.O. and Lindenwood Alumni Association. She taught school for several years in Oklahoma. Her family came to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears. She lived in Leawood for over 50 years and died peacefully in her home with her two sons at her bedside.

She is survived by two sons, Michael P. Crow and wife Marti of Leavenworth, Kan., and Richard R. Crow of Eudora, Kan.; three grandchildren, Jennifer, Emily and husband Craig and Bryan Crow; step-daughter-in-law Billie June Crow; step-grandsons, Greg and Jim Crow and families; nieces Eleanor Fox and husband Ed, and Anne Atherton and husband Roy and their families; nephew Glen Smith and wife Joy and their family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, James P. Crow; son William S. Crow II; and brother Lewis V. Smith.



## James Edward Franklin

James Edward Franklin was born March 19, 1924, in Bokchito to Alfus R. and Alga (Morgan) Franklin. He passed away May 3, 2010, in Hugo at the age of 86.

James married Loetta Brown on Dec. 15, 1945, in Durant. He retired at age 80. He loved visiting with family and friends, or whoever would stop and listen to his stories. He also enjoyed singing and horseback riding and went on the James Franklin Trail Ride every year for his birthday.

James was preceded in death by his parents, Alfus and Alga Franklin; a son, Ritchie Franklin; one brother, A.J. Franklin; and two sisters, Louise Houser and Pat Anderson.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Loetta, of the home; children, Chiquita Carter and husband Kelon of Snow, Randy Franklin of Muse, Rick Franklin and wife Debra of Wilburton, Julene Carter and husband Randy of Snow, Sharon Brown and husband Jeffrey of Brown, Robert Franklin and wife Teresa of Tulsa, and Susan Edwards of Durant; grandchildren, Tamara Carter, Shande Johnston, Sharleen Rezner, Starlith Carter, Christy Johnson, Sharra Savage, Raquel Powell, Heather Franklin, Darnell Hammon, Jeryd O'Neal, Kelon Carter II, Jeremy Carter, Christian Carter, Rickey Franklin II; great-grandchildren, Garrett Savage, Gage Savage, Kaden Kaiser, Jacee Mosley, Jade Carter, Alexander Carter, Rochette Carter, Jasmine Carter, Cade Coleman, Chance Coleman, Dustin Franklin, Quentin Powell, Abigail Powell, Cameron Powell, Madison Johnston, Chayce Carter, Colby Carter, Jacob Washington, Jackson Rezner, Lucas Rezner, Matthew Hammon, Olivia Johnson, Isaac Johnson, Joe Robinson, Matthew Twitty; great-great-granddaughter Emma Savage; two brothers, Ray Franklin and wife Sybil of Blue and Bob Franklin and wife Maxine of Durant; as well as many other relatives and friends.



## Della Bullard

Della Bullard, 71, of Wright City, passed away May 6, 2010, in Antlers. The daughter of Robert Lee and Lona (Herndon) Snow, she was born May 10, 1938, in Wright City.

Della lived all of her life in Wright City. She married Cotton Bullard on March 23, 1958, in Hugo. She enjoyed riding her horse, gathering with family to play cards and reading.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brother John Robert Snow and niece Charla Elliott.

Della is survived by three brothers, Dan Herndon and wife Inez of Wright City, Pat Snow and wife Bonnie of Flagstaff, Ariz., Ernest Snow and wife Marvene of Garvin; brother-in-law Ben Bullard and wife Wanda of Wright City; three sisters, Loretta Moye and husband Douglas of Wright City, Paula George of Wright City, Linda Benton and husband Ronald of Sherwood Community; sister-in-law Betty Collins of Wright City; numerous nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces.



## Juanita Wanda Donathan

Juanita Wanda Donathan of Poteau passed away May 21, 2010, at the age of 81. She was born July 25, 1928, in Wilburton. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Turner and Mary Jane (Collin) Berry; husbands Bobby Cooper and Charles Donathan; sister Betty Earls; brother Turner Berry; great-granddaughter Sierra Hornbuckle and two infant children.

She is survived by two daughters and son-in-law, Carolyn and Bobby Cagle of Howe, and Patsy Walker of Poteau; grandchildre Tammy and Trent Hapton of Poteau, Melissa and Dewayne Hornbuckle of Wister, Jason Cagle of Howe, Angie Fetters of Poteau; great-grandchildren Roderick Hornbuckle, Kyra Hornbuckle, Seth Hampton and Sydney Hampton; brother and sister-in-law Cecil and Nona Berry of McAlester; other relatives, loved ones and a host of beloved friends.



## Richard Charles Hart

Richard Charles Hart, 80, passed away May 15, 2010, at his home in Shawnee. He was born to Silas Calvin and Minda Leticia (Monds) Hart on March 6, 1930, in Centrahoma.

He attended school at Lone Oak and Tupelo. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army. He married Mary Amanda Brummett on June 15, 1948. They had two sons and one daughter. He was a member of the Blackburn Chapel Baptist Church in Bethel Acres. Richard worked as a welder.

Richard is survived by two boys, Suni Hart of Dallas, Texas, Gary Hart of Shawnee; one daughter, Dana and husband Ben Perry of Oklahoma City; grandchildren Mindy and husband Stephen Manning of Wylie, Texas, Sy Babb of Colorado, Amanda Kolke and Justin Hillman of Sapula, Angela and husband James Miller of Perkins and Tanner Hart of Perkins; great-grandchildren, Jeremiah, Annabell, Rich and Jake; brother Kenneth Hart; two sisters, Faye McCurry and Avo Hedrick; one sister-in-law, Geneva Brummett; and a host of very special nieces and nephews, numerous other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Mary; his parents, Silas and Minda Hart; two sisters, Letha and Ola Bell; three brothers, Beck, Junior and Arvard.



## Ward Morrison

Ward Morrison, a longtime Coalgate resident, passed away May 23, 2010, in Muskogee at the age of 87. He was born Sept. 7, 1922, in Olney to Alford Wesley and Alice (Ward) Morrison.

He attended Olney school. He married Norma Jean Wyer on April 4, 1949, in Cimaron, Kan. He was a carpenter. He also served his country in Marines during WWII, where he was awarded two Purple Hearts.

He is survived by his wife, Norma Jean Morrison of Coalgate; children, Sandra Lee Ross of Mesa, Ariz., Gloria Jean Smith and husband Charles of Ardmore, Jeanette Alice Austin of Atoka, Patricia Jo Mechura and husband Randy of Rowlett, Texas, Joe Ward Morrison of Atoka, John Lee Morrison and wife Debbie of Dupo, Ill., Mary Ellen Gaylor and Wesley Kohea of McKinney, Texas, Donna Coleen Elkins of Frisco, Texas; 16 grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren; along with numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alford Wesley and Alice (Ward) Morrison; sons Wesley Ward Morrison and Robert Alan Morrison; sister Dorothy Grace Swartz; and brother Joe Bob Morrison.



## Myrtle Lee King

Myrtle Lee King, 70, of Oklahoma City, passed away May 3, 2010. She was born May 9, 1939, to Louis and Lorency Johnico. She was a member of Victory Baptist Church. Myrtle did a lot of volunteer work. She enjoyed fishing, cooking, sports, especially watching fast pitch softball. She was also a big O.U. fan.

She is survived by daughters, Karen Moctezuma and husband Juan, Rhonda Esquivel, and Sherri Foley; grandchildren, Erica Campos, Justin Moctezuma, Odon Esquivel, Miguel Moctezuma, Sherri Garza, Carl Foley, Stacy Rader, Garland Rader; great-grandchildren, David Campos and Nathaniel Wesley; sisters, Edna Joyce Johnico, Suzette Sims, and Mildred King; brothers, Louis Johnico Jr., and John Wayne Johnico; numerous nieces, nephews and other loving family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Thomas Foley Sr.; second husband Woodrow King; son Thomas Spencer Foley Jr.; and parents Louis and Lorency Johnico.





## 'Contrast'

I shift from one foot to the other, glancing around at the throng of people solemnly waiting. I gaze at the purple flag fluttering in the breeze. It's waiting too.

### Winter, 1831

"Why must we go, Mother?" 12-year-old William stared at the only home he had ever known. Honey Island, they called it. Encircled by the Yazoo River, the island was rich with his father's honeybees and his mother's flock of geese. "We are leaving everything behind."

Elsie Robuck looked into her husband Ezekiel's grave face. Then she traced a finger over Anna's tiny features and reached out to stroke Benjamin and William's cheeks.

"Not everything, my son."

I pick up a brisk pace, eyes focusing on the purple flag going before me on the blacktop road. My tennis shoes step lightly in the warm sunshine. Laughter floats around me from innocent children. The older walkers remain somber as they stride proudly behind the purple flag.

### Winter, 1831

"You have to get out here." The wagon driver looked at Ezekiel. "Out."

Ezekiel's voice was raspy. "You must go on...with-out me." His face was pale as he struggled to the end of the wagon.

William leaped off before him, heart pounding as he helped his cholera stricken father to the cold ground.

"We will not leave you," Elsie said. William turned to see his mother taking Benjamin from the wagon as she clutched baby Anna.

Lying on the ground nearing unconsciousness, Ezekiel grasped Elsie's hand. "Little Blue Hen, I pray to God none of you will be struck with this sickness."

I am falling slightly behind the purple flag. My mind is wandering to people I've never met, faces I've never seen. My heart begins to ache.

### Winter, 1831

William drove his knife into the hard ground one last time. "It is enough." He motioned his younger brother Benjamin to stop.

With his mother's help William lifted his father, who was carefully wrapped in a blanket, into the shallow grave.

Tears blurred William's vision as he laid a burning stick of wood to the ground brush. The torched area



**T.J. Parson, 9, of Oklahoma City learns to make Choctaw pottery at Tushka Homma. He and brother Zach, 7, and sister Alyssa, 3, pictured below, enjoyed all the activities following the Trail of Tears commemorative walk.**



**Walking in honor of Delia Carterby Wesley are her husband, Williston, granddaughter Shareece and daughter, Charlene Columbus. Delia, a daughter of Code Talker Ben Carterby, passed away in February of this year. They are pictured with Chief Pyle, right, and Assistant Chief Batton.**



**Kacie and Karyn Maldonado**



**Assistant Chief Batton greets Color Guard Sam Moore and his family.**



**Beverly Oare, Tom and Patty Oare, and Travis, T.J. and Ayla.**



**Joel Holt and LeAndrea Carter.**



**Ian Thompson demonstrates pottery making.**



**Little Miss Choctaw Juanita Gonzales is pictured with Joann Ferguson, Dean Ferguson, Renee Ferguson, LouAnn Modler, Teddy Modler and Dean Modler.**



would mark his father's grave, where one day William hoped to return for him.

"How will we find our way, Mother?" Benjamin's voice quivered. "The wagons are a day ahead of us."

"We will follow the tracks. We will find our new home."

My gaze drifts from the purple flag to the creek running beneath the bridge I'm crossing. I read the purple sign: Mile 1. Such a short distance.

### Winter, 1831

"The river is at flood stage." Elsie's quiet observation sent chills up William's spine.

William watched his mother tie Anna to her with her paisley shawl. She squeezed his hand and took Benjamin's. Together they moved into the rushing river.

Icy water up to his chest, William could feel the current lift him off his feet. With a cry, his eyes darted to his mother in time to see her disappear beneath the surface.

I open my bottle of water and take another long drink. I wonder how the Color Guard can keep up such a pace. Their determination drives me forward, chin lifting as I stride closer to the purple flag.

### Winter, 1831

"You're alive!"

Hunched on a wooden bench, William's head came up at the familiar voice shouting from a distance.

Squinting against the sun, William could see his great-uncle David Folsom coming up the dirt road entering Doaksville. William released his younger broth-

er's hand as he ran forward to be wrapped in his uncle's arms.

David reached to embrace Elsie, Benjamin and baby Anna, then spoke in a soft tone.

"I will take you to your new home."

William laid his head against Uncle David's side, a tear sliding down his cheek. He grieved for his father and the home he had left behind. Yet his mother had been right. They had not left everything behind in Mississippi.

My steps quicken as the historic Tuskahoma Capitol Building comes into view. I am nearing the end of the two-mile commemorative walk, honoring my ancestors who survived and those who died on the Trail of Tears.

I look again to the purple flag flying alongside the red, white and blue.

The purple flag is the flag of my people. It bears the symbol of an unstrung bow, three arrows and a smoking pipe-hatchet: The Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation.

*Author's Note:* Special thanks to my mother, Lynda Kay Sawyer, and my brother, Douglas R Davis, for their diligent research of our Choctaw family history.

Bio: Sarah Elisabeth is an author, entrepreneur and health enthusiast. She is a direct descendent of William Ro(e) buck and is very proud of her Choctaw heritage. More stories can be found on her blog: SarahElisabethWrites.com

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## Walkers gather from around the country

### Continued from Page 1

Four sisters from Kingfisher, LaVenia Boutwell, Madeline Redwine, Madell Henderson and the oldest, Gwen Baldrige, 84, made the walk for the first time together. Gwen's daughter, Shirley Schultz of Wimberly, Texas, joined them. LaVenia and Madeline had participated in the first walk held by the tribe, a 21-mile trek from Horatio, Arkansas, to Gardner Mansion in 1992. They were happy to take the nostalgic journey Saturday and enthusiastically talked of meeting new friends and making plans to come back to Tushka Homma and to visit Durant.

Beverly Oare proudly escorted her son and his family on their first Trail of Tears Walk. Tom and Patty Oare have recently moved with their children, Travis, T.J. and Ayla from New York state to Summerfield, Okla. They were excited to participate with so many other Choctaws.

Oklahoma City resident and Army veteran Jonas Watson walked his first Trail of Tears in honor of his family – both ancestors and descendants. He wanted to honor his loved ones who have passed and his grandchildren who are still growing. Watson grew up in Pushmataha County and went to school in Snow.

Ernest Hooser, 92, of Durant comes to the walk to see the people and his homeland. He grew up around Tushka Homma and still owns land in the area. His mother used to take them out in one of the fields not far from the capitol and dig snakeroot to use for medicine. His grandfather was the first superintendent of the Tushka Homma Female Seminary in 1892.

A familiar figure at any Choctaw Nation event, Williston Wesley, 79, has never missed a walk. He and his family walked on Saturday in honor of his late wife, Delia Carterby Wesley of Broken Bow, who passed away in February. A grandson, Derek Jones, would not miss the event, committed to walk even though he suffers kidney failure.

Joel Holt of Idabel has also walked every year. He



**Ernest Hooser**

pushes 2-year-old great niece Le-Andrea Carter in a stroller and recalls bringing LeAndrea's own mother, Andrea Fox, to the walk when she was a baby. He is carrying on that tradition with Le-Andrea.

Traveling from Lexington, Ky., to participate were matriarch Joann Ferguson, son Dean Ferguson, granddaughters Renee Ferguson and LouAnn Modler, grandson-in-law Teddy Modler and great-grandson Dean Modler.

The family was eager to join in their first walk and happy that the weather was cooperating.

The cultural experience continued on the capitol grounds where all ages could learn to weave a basket, make pottery, take part in a bow shoot or watch Choctaw social dancing.

The theme of the day seemed to never diminish. All were grateful for the spirit, the courage of the ancestors.

"Hardships were endured," said Assistant Chief Gary Batton. "Lives were lost so we could have a better life."



**Sisters LaVenia Boutwell, Madeline Redwine, Madell Henderson and Gwen Baldrige make the walk for the first time together. Gwen's daughter, Shirley Schultz of Wimberly, Texas, joined them.**



**Stroller moms – Regina Flanagan and Keligh Williams of Broken Bow, Robia Halib and Robert Redfern of Plano and Haley James of Whitesboro with Sarah and Abigail.**



**Cinderella Deramus, Anita Schroyer, Tayla and Erica Taylor, and Tristan and Joseph Sargent, all of Idabel.**