

Notice to patients: Hugo health facility renovation begins this month

Renovations of the Choctaw Nation Health Clinic in Hugo are scheduled to begin in December and are expected to last approximately six months. The renovation project is being done in order to better serve patients by providing more space and updated equipment at the Hugo facility. During the interim, patients will receive health care services at a temporary facility which will be conveniently located one block south of the Hugo clinic at the intersection of M Street and Hwy. 70.

The provisional facility will not include enough room for a dental department. The Hugo facility dental staff will be relocated to the Choctaw Nation Health Clinic in McAlester during the renovation process. Hugo patients requiring dental services are advised to seek care through the dental departments located at either the McAlester or Idabel facilities as they are the closest to Hugo.

The comprehensive renovation project will pose a temporary inconvenience for some patients. However, the final outcome will result in a facility which will better serve the patients of Choctaw Nation. Your patience and cooperation during the process are appreciated.

Tribal Council approves dedicating land for recycling center in Bryan County

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session November 14. At the top of the agenda for new business, the 12 Councilmembers approved setting aside two acres of Choctaw Nation land in Bryan County for a recycling center.

The center will fill a need in the area to help improve the environment by recycling the amount of material transported to landfills as waste and increase the amount of material that is responsibly recycled into a more appropriate form. The recycling center will be located near the Choctaw Nation Transportation Department on Enterprise Boulevard in Durant. At this time, plans are to receive printer cartridges, aluminum, plastic and paper items for recycling.

Also on the agenda were 19 budgets for tribal programs, all approved.

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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.

Choctaw veterans honored

Flags fly at half mast on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month at Tushka Homma. A moment of silence is held for those who lost their lives at Fort Hood the week before, Choctaw veterans of all ages bowing their heads to honor the 12 who were killed along with 31 injured by a gunman on a shooting spree.

"This is not just another day, it's a very special day," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle to the many veterans, family and friends who attended the annual Choctaw Nation Veterans Day event.

"There is not enough to say about our troops who serve our country. We would like to pay special tribute to one of our employees, Michael Cahill, who was among those killed at Fort Hood."

Cahill, 62, a physician's assistant who lived in Cameron, Texas, was employed with the Soldiers Readiness Program through a medical services contract with Choctaw Archiving Enterprises. A veteran himself, Cahill had worked nearly seven years for the tribe.

The ceremony opened with the posting of the colors by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard, followed by the strands of the "National Anthem" played by the Fort Sill 77th Army Band Brass Quintet, and the Lord's Prayer performed in sign language by Choctaw Nation Little Miss Juanita Gonzalez, Jr. Miss Stephanie Tehauno and Sr. Miss Ashton Rachelle DiNardo.

Many of the veterans gathered mums as they dropped to the ground from flyovers by the World War II Airborne Demonstration Team. The red, white and blue flowers were clutched in their hands as they listened to tribal officials and guest speakers who set aside the day to pay tribute to them.

Tribal Council Speaker Delton Cox gazed over the group on the Capitol lawn and said, "Every time I stand up here and look out at our Choctaw veterans, I do it with a great deal of humility. So many of my friends and relatives went off to Vietnam and didn't come back. I feel small. I spent time in the Marine Corps, but I came home."

Country singer Derek Sholl chose



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Congressman Dan Boren and Lt. Gen. Leroy Sisco speak at the Choctaw Nation's annual Veterans Day event.

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to be at Tushka Homma and play for the Choctaw veterans. The young man from Southern California has spent time in Iraq and Afghanistan performing for the troops. He delivered emotional renditions of his songs, "One More Round" and "When They Come Back," a great tribute to uniformed men and women. He made his stop in Oklahoma on the way to perform for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Congressman Dan Boren pointed out that we do two things on Veterans Day.

"We pause and honor those who serve our country and we remind ourselves of how much we owe them," Congressman Boren said. "There are 67,000 veterans in Southeastern Oklahoma. Congress has recently appropriated \$14.5 billion for veterans programs including \$23 million for

Silver Star for courageously saving a wounded comrade but didn't live to see it. On Sept. 29, 2006, he died after throwing himself on a grenade to protect his fellow soldiers.

"As I travel back and forth from Oklahoma City to D.C., I think of things like this, a constant reminder of the soldiers who do so much," said Boren. "Everything that is wrong with this country can be fixed by everything that is right with this country."

Assistant Chief Batton thanked Chief Pyle, Congressman Boren and Lt. Gen. Leroy Sisco for their support of veterans. It is because of their unwavering efforts that the Code Talker Recognition Act passed. "It is because of the Chief's support of veterans that the Choctaw Nation earned the Freedom Award. Chief Pyle supports veterans not only with his words, but with his heart."

"What I appreciate about Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and the Tribal Council is that you do what is best for Americans and not what is best for the Democratic or Republican parties. I am proud you are my friends," said Lt. Gen. Sisco. "It is an honor to be here today with you fellow veterans and the Choctaw Nation who are very proud to declare their love of this country and all who defend her."

"I also want to thank Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Batton and the Tribal Council for your incredible support of our military heroes by supporting our foundation, the Military Warriors Support Foundation. Last year we helped over 4,000 heroes including their families and because of your support we were able to do this."

"To my fellow veterans who have kept America safe and made us proud, I say thank you on behalf of every American," said the 3-star Army General who grew up in McAlester. "Today we honor the valor of your sacrifice and the legacy of your heroism, which is the freedom we all so cherish. As I have said to you before the

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Vietnam Veteran Osborne Kenieutubbe Jr. saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

homeless veterans." He noted that there is much more work to be done. "I for one believe that anyone who fought for our country should be supported for the rest of their life."

Boren told the story of Navy SEAL Michael Monsoor or "Mikey" who fought dozens of battles in the streets of Ramadi, a man who earned the

Recruiters say Ivy League and Friends is best Native American college fair

Sometime before midnight on Friday, November 7, after the last of nearly 250 students and parents had left Ivy League and Friends Choctaw Student Recruitment, representatives from seven of the America's top academic institutions gathered around a table with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma's Scholarship Advisement Program team for an informal review of the recruiting activity from the prior six hours at the Choctaw Event Center in Durant.

One comment from a recruiter summed up his colleague's feeling when comparing Ivy League and Friends to other Native American recruiting events. That recruiter described the evening activities as the very best of Native American College Fairs.

"The post-event feedback from students, parents, guests and recruiters confirm our evening's impact," says Gregory E. Pyle, Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO). "This year's event built on the success of last year's session with Harvard. For the 2009 gala more than 120 students – and 125 parents and guests – traveled from more than 10 states to Durant to meet not

See IVY LEAGUE on Page 14



Harvard recruiter talks with parents and students.

Choctaw Nation investigators receive training



Archaeologist Dr. Ian Thompson, Executive Director Sue Folsom and Historic Preservation Director Terry Cole.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has a new weapon in the preservation of their descendants' culture and heritage – two certified tribal crime scene investigators.

Terry Cole, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and Dr. Ian Thompson, the Tribal archaeologist, recently completed the "Archaeological Law Enforcement Class" in Bishop, Calif. This course focused on what is required to enforce and prosecute violators of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA).

The ARPA was enacted "to secure, for the present and future benefit of the American people, the protection of archaeological resources and sites which are on public and tribal lands."

Before they received this training, the Choctaw Nation had no personnel qualified to investigate the actual or suspected desecration of archaeological resources such as archaeological sites, burial sites or removal of tribal artifacts, making prosecuting those who violated the ARPA a difficult undertaking.

"We had no recourse against violators before because we didn't have the training to investigate archaeological crimes," said Cole, Director of the Historic Preservation Department.

"Preservation is a huge part of what this department does and now we can help prosecute violators that have desecrated sacred tribal sites because we

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NOTES TO THE NATION

Choctaw Nation is highlight of trip

Dear Chief Pyle,

Our trip to Oklahoma was wonderful! It was such a treat to visit many of the places throughout Oklahoma that are a part of our lives, especially my Dad's and his family. But truly our visit to the Choctaw Nation was a highlight.

Thank you for carving out a few minutes of your busy schedule to share some time with us. We were delighted to be able to visit with you and Judy and learn more about the great things that the Choctaw Nation is doing to improve the lives of so many people. My Dad has always been very proud of his Choctaw heritage and he has shared it with us as well. Our visit to the Choctaw Nation certainly helped to reinforce what we knew and educate us even more.

Thank you for your gracious hospitality. I wish you continued success as you lead the Choctaw Nation into the future.

Liz Kyser Brantley
Orlando, Fla.

Veteran receives hearing aids

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I was severely injured in Italy during World War II. Among my injuries, a major portion of my hearing was impaired. With age, the hearing decreased. Through the goodness of the Choctaw Nation I was provided excellent hearing aids. What a blessing. I am now capable of hearing sounds I haven't heard in years. Words cannot express my appreciation nor my gratitude for your kindness and generous help. From the bottom of my heart I thank you! May the dear Lord bless you!

Harry Boydston Sr.
Moore, Oklahoma

A special thank you

Dear Choctaw Nation,

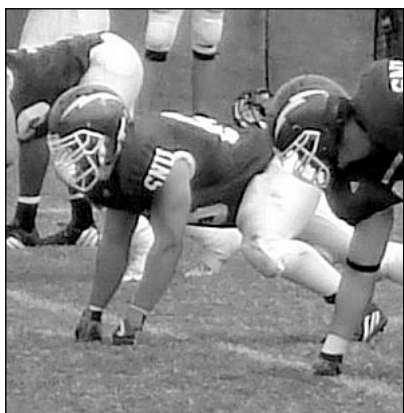
We thank you for all the love and kindness you gave my grandmother, Maggie Oma Taylor. She loved seeing Misty Howell and all the people who took her food and gave her her Choctaw blanket. We had her buried with it. Oh, what a special gift. She loved it so. She was proud of her heritage and was so blessed to have had all of you in her life. Thank you.

Taylor and Williams families

Grateful for scholarship

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the scholarship I received from the Choctaw Nation. This scholarship allowed me to expand my knowledge through higher education over five years at SNU. It helped me keep a GPA of over 3.5. In turn, I received numerous honors for my achievement. This scholarship, along with a football scholarship, allowed me to continue my dream of playing college football as well.



I am very pleased with the education I received at Southern Nazarene University. At SNU, I was the president of Delta Mu Delta, National Honor Society, member of the Student of Board of Directors, Academic All Conference, and Academic All American. I received my Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and am currently working to attain my Certified Public Accounting certificate. None of this would have been possible without the Choctaw Nation. I am touched not only by the Choctaw Nation's generosity but also by their desire to give to the tribal members. I am proud to be a member of the Choctaw Nation.

James Airington
El Reno, Okla.

Overwhelming response

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am writing on behalf of Bryant Rickman, thanking Karen Jacob for the excellent article on the Choctaw ponies. The response has been almost overwhelming. In the past three weeks approximately 80 Choctaws have called, all interested in the ponies, sharing memories of their history, and wanting to come see and possibly acquire one or more of these amazing and rare horses. Mr. Rickman also wanted to let everyone know that if they have tried to call him and he has not answered or yet responded to their message, please keep trying. He is eager to speak with anyone interested in the ponies and their preservation.

Francine Locke Bray

Gregory E. Pyle
Chief

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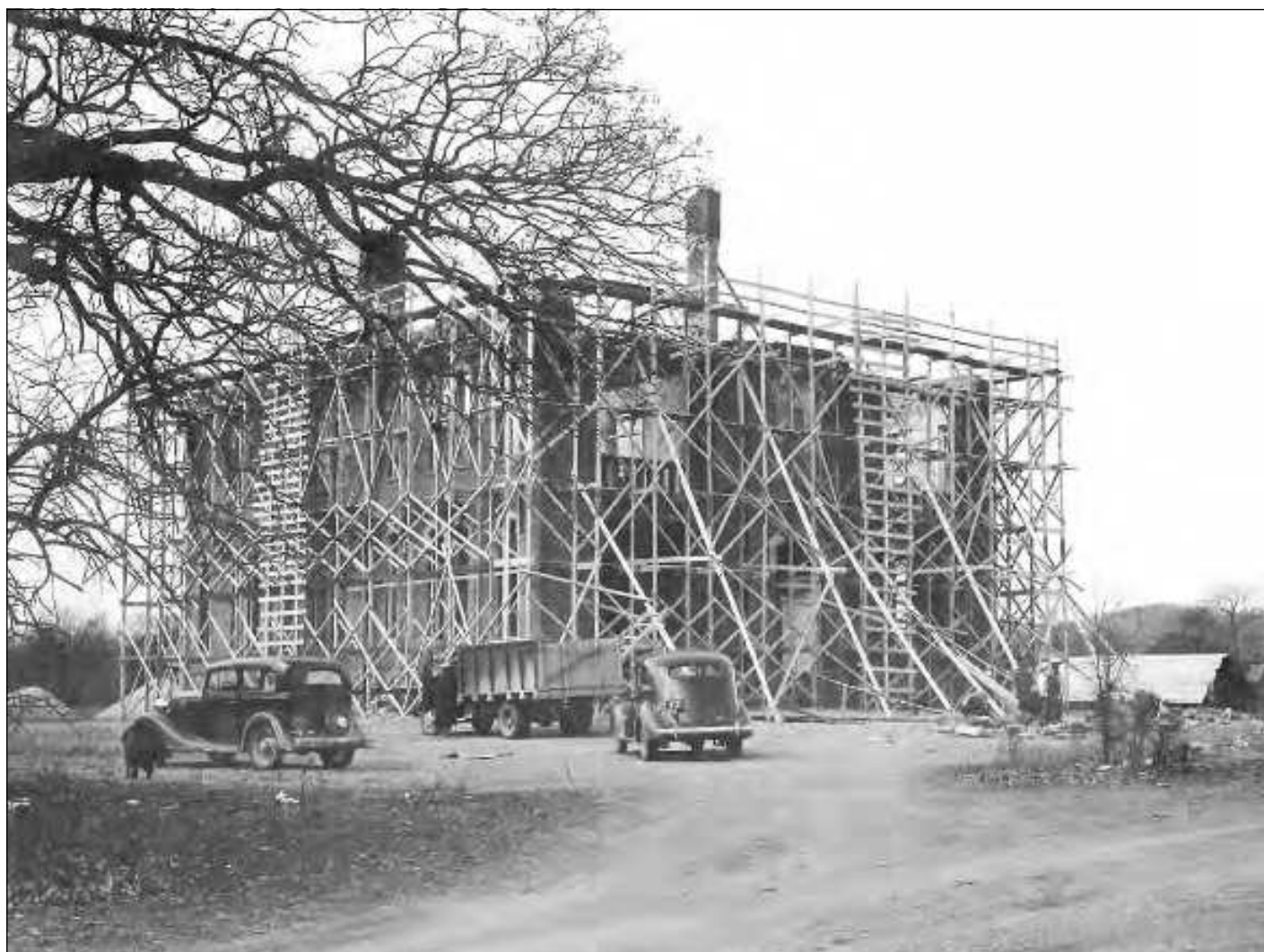
If you are receiving more than one BISHINIK at your home or if your address needs changed, we would appreciate hearing from you.

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Gary Batton
Assistant Chief

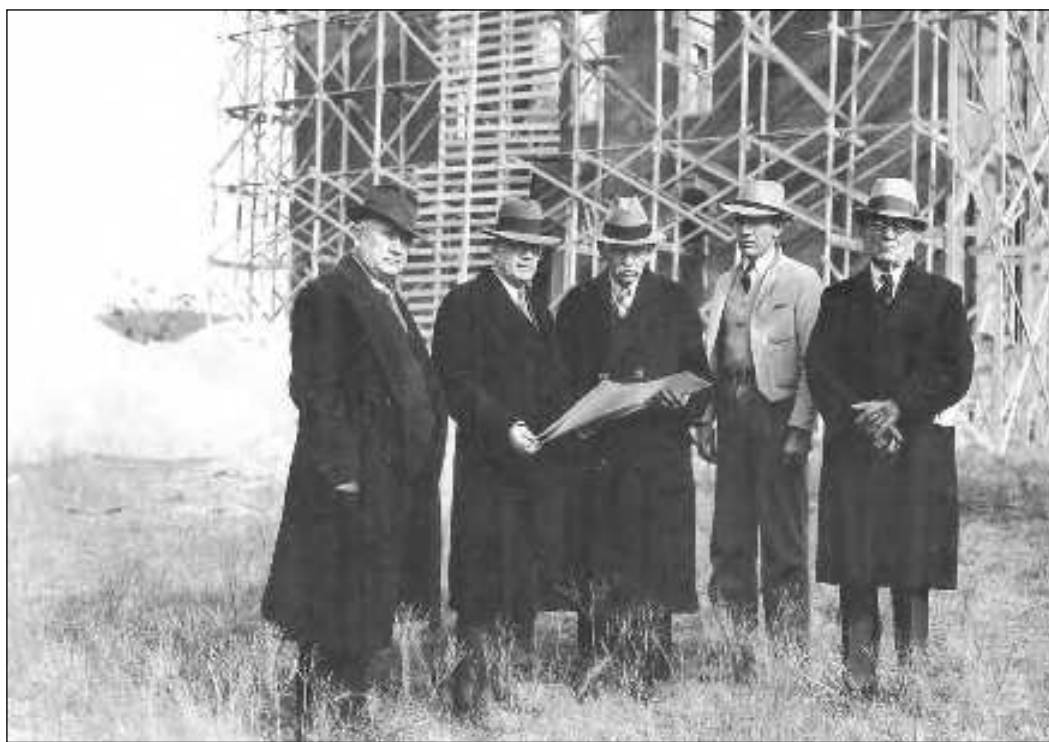


A glimpse of the past – Capitol renovation in 1937

On a stroll through the Wheelock Academy Museum near Millerton, a person can find many interesting artifacts and photo displays.

On loan from the Five Civilized Tribe Museum, gratis from the Smithsonian Institute are copies of the two photos pictured here, dated December 3, 1937. The Choctaw Capitol restoration near Tuskahoma, is depicted in the photo above. The majestic red brick building was restored by the CCC-ID and Tribal funds.

At right, James Culberson, Superintendent Landman, Chief William A. Durant, Sam L. Riddle, and Judge T.W. Hunter are inspecting the 1937 renovation of the Capitol of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



Wright City Crushers have undefeated season

The Wright City Crushers would like to thank Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Councilman Jack Austin for all their support this season. The Crushers played in the Broken Bow fall coach-pitch league and were undefeated this season.

Back row from left, Stoney Trusty, Joey Tom, Ryman Battiest, Nicole Trusty; middle row from left, Kaleb Trusty (Most Valuable Player award,) Kameron Baker, Rylan Robert, Mahala Battiest (Most Improved award,) Jordan Nolin; and front row from left, Davin Anna, Konner Tom (Heart and Hustle award,) Briar Teague, Jaden Hammons (Sportsmanship award,) Coy Allensworth and Roman McKeever.

Painting of little terrapin racer

Dear Choctaw Nation,

A number of years ago, I came to the gathering over Labor Day with a group from California. I was working on a Master's Fine Arts in painting and took a number of pictures as reference for my master's project. I completed that master's in 2002. One of the paintings is a child who won the terrapin race for her age group. I would like to offer that painting to the parents of the child. I do not know her name or how to get in contact with them. If anyone has any information, please contact laurie_jeann@juno.com. Thank you.



Seeking information

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I am looking for info on my great-grandfather, Dr. Henry W. Fannin, Oaklodge Postmaster 1871. He also was at New Hope Seminary. I also would like information on my grandfather, John Fannin; uncle, E.W. Fannin, who had a store in Skullyville; and my grandmother, Mary Bella Falconer Fannin, granddaughter of Sarah Moncrief Harlan. Please e-mail me at opalf1@aol.com. Thank you.

Mike Fannin

Extra effort

Dear Shawntae Hall, Tribal Membership,

Thank you for the extra effort to process my CDIB. It is rare nowadays to find people willing to do extra.

Andrea Vrooman

OKC Choctaws active in center

Dear Chief Pyle,

Your approval of the roof restoration of the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance building in Oklahoma City is really appreciated. We have really been fixing up the interior and adding activities. As one of our elder members, Stella Long, said, "Everytime I come here I feel at home."

Through three language classes, a legal history class, cooking, arts, crafts, storytelling and dancing classes on a regular schedule we see more and more Choctaw people becoming active.

You would be proud of the recent improvements. Hopefully we can keep it open some day with someone there to supervise folks who just want to sit, talk, play checkers, etc.

Having the roof restored with a 10-year warranty will add to the property value and provide a secure place for us to gather. We will work hard at garage sales, etc., to continue improving the interior.

Janet Theus



Scholarship makes a difference

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Thank you so much for the scholarship. This scholarship means a great deal to me. I graduated from Granite Hills High School in Apple Valley, Calif., in 2008. The summer following graduation my mother lost our home to foreclosure. My father has been in a rest home for four years as a result of a major stroke in 2004. My mother had to move in with friends. Family took in my younger brother and I moved in with my 82-year-old grandfather, Virgil Labor, whose father, Virgil Labor Sr., was an original enrollee. I am attending the University of Redlands thanks to academic scholarships and the generosity of the Choctaw Nation. I am graduating early next year and am currently interning for my local Congressman. I plan to intern for him at his D.C. office this summer. Upon graduation I plan to move to D.C. and continue working for the U.S. government. I would not be where I am today if it were not for the kindness of so many people. Thank you again to the Choctaw tribe for supporting me in my endeavors.

Molly Wiltshire, Bloomington, Calif.



Historical documents

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Several years ago I acquired some old pictures and old documents that belonged to a great-aunt of mine. I would like to find any descendant of Hodges Kanimaya that would like to have these documents.

Colleen Patterson, 940-692-1366



Our tribe is blessed

From the Desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is thankful that the White House recognized Native American Heritage Day this year. It is fitting that the day after Thanksgiving was set aside to honor all tribes.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is a caring and sharing people. Our prayer every day is to help others.

Throughout the year, we share. Even though Choctaws have known hardships, we live in great spirit and great cooperation with the people around us.

Because Choctaws have a generous heart, tribal people gave money to the starving Irish just 16 years after our own Trail of Tears, and today, we still try to make sure there are no hungry people in our area. We give baskets of food to the needy at holidays and we have weekly meals provided for the senior citizens.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is now prosperous. We are getting stronger every year. We are growing in population and growing in services. It is important that all people around the globe are given the opportunity to grow stronger and flourish.

During the holiday season, we assist our needy Choctaws inside the Choctaw Nation with food baskets and even toys for the children. The Council members host Santa parties for the youngsters so they can have an enjoyable Christmas.

The past two years, our tribal programs have decorated the Capitol Grounds at Tushka Homma with beautiful light shows for everyone to enjoy between Thanksgiving and the New Year. We are truly blessed and try to extend those blessings to our communities.

I am thankful to be your Chief, I am thankful to be blessed by God, and we should all be thankful as a Nation to have the resources and partnerships that have been made possible for us. God Bless you and your family.

Partnering with local entities to provide homes for rescued animals

From the Desk of Assistant Chief Gary Batton

Every Friday at the Choctaw Nation Headquarters in Durant there is a new occupant to greet visitors in the reception area. In an endeavor of servitude, the Choctaw Nation employees are helping the local Humane Society find homes for the rescued animals they are currently housing.

The Durant area Good Shepherd Humane Society is ran by volunteers, funded by donations. The person in charge there is a Certified Animal Abuse Investigator who works with the Bryan County Sheriff Department, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, and other law en-

forcement officials to rescue animals of all sizes.

Several weeks into the adoption program have successfully had all the dogs brought to visit the Complex placed into loving homes. The first dog was a sweet beagle-mix affectionately called Copper. This animal was taken home to a family with children who will enjoy playing with their new pet. The second dog was a Shepherd-Labrador mix called Blackie, but the new owner quickly changed her name to Lucky. This beautiful black dog was a birthday surprise to a young boy, who was really the lucky one. The third dog, who looked like she could have been part Anatolian Shepherd, went home with a family

who came to the Choctaw Nation seeking services.

Other dogs from the Humane Society have also found homes recently thanks to the Pet of the Week program, because Choctaw employees have found that this is a great place to adopt a loving animal.

Also assisting with the placement of these animals is "The Pet Place" in Durant who offered pro bono grooming services for the Choctaw Nation Animal of the Week. The adoptions are free, but any donations to Good Shepherd are welcome.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle and I are happy to be teaming up with community partners to help provide homes for these rescued animals. It is even more

special during the Christmas season to see the love shared between the animals and their new families. The Choctaw Nation has been blessed to be able to help a great number of people in need, and it is great to help families receive the gift of an affectionate pet.

Each animal that is up for adoption on Fridays at the Choctaw Nation Headquarters located at 16th and Locust Streets in Durant has had its shots, and is selected because of its friendly personality. So come by and see the new animal on Friday, or visit your local Humane Society. Who knows – you may meet your new best friend!



The promise of peace

May the Lord bless you and your loved ones in a very special way during this Christmas season and in the coming New Year 2010.

The celebration of Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God's gift of love to you and me. (John 3:16).

During this Christmas season more people are more frustrated, and more people are unsure of life, more unsure than they have ever been before.

When we are emotionally upset, depressed and discouraged, where can we find peace? The peace the Christmas angels spoke about – peace on earth. (Luke 2:13-14).

Peace for the world will be found only in the Christ of Christmas. The prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 9:6, "His name shall be called The Prince of Peace ..." and in the same sentence he wrote, "... and the government shall be upon His shoulder."

Our Holy Bible in Genesis 1:1 begins with, "In the beginning God ..." and in the Gospel of John 1:1 it begins, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Jesus Christ was the Word. We read in John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us ..."

Our Lord Jesus Christ was marked from the beginning of time to reign. On the first Christmas Jesus came as the Savior, born of a virgin, Virgin Mary, in Bethlehem. When He comes again, He will come as the Sovereign. Sovereign means that whatever He says or does is final, He answers to no one.

The Lord Jesus Christ came to die on the cross for our sins. He bought us back with His precious shed blood (I Peter 1:18-19). He went to heaven and today He sits at the right hand of God the Father (Hebrews 1:1-3) and He is coming back (John 14:1-3 and Acts 1:9-11).

Once He came in lowliness, then He will come in glory.

The matter of who shall rule has been the cause of all our conflicts down through the ages. Who shall rule in heaven? Who shall rule in earth? Who shall rule in the hearts of men?

Chaplain's Corner



**Rev. Bertram Bobb
Tribal Chaplain**

Two of these questions have already been answered. God is ruling in heaven. He is ruling now. Jesus said in Matthew 6:9-10: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

God's will is done in heaven. This is settled, God rules in heaven. And God shall rule on the earth. He has given to His Son the right to rule on the earth when He comes the second time. The Scriptures declare in Isaiah 2:3-4:

"... and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. "And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

But peace is not due until the Prince of Peace comes.

What are we doing today? We prepare for wars. At that time we shall beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruninghooks. We will prepare for peace, because the Prince of Peace will be here and ruling with a rod of iron.

Jesus Christ is not only appointed to reign in earth but He is also appointed to reign in the hearts of men. Christ did not

come to take away our joy, to work hardship upon us, or to make slaves of fear and men whose hearts are full of misery. He came that He might reign in our hearts and reign there in peace.

Jesus said in John 14:27:

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

This is why He came. This is why He wants to rule in our hearts. Not just to rule so that He might be the sovereign and make us do His will, but to rule in our hearts to give us peace. To make us joyful, happy people.

Let us not make the mistake of trying to find peace somewhere else. We will never find peace until, by trusting in the Prince of Peace, we allow Him to reign in our hearts.

Peace was the promise of the angels at Christ's birth. As the Prince of Peace He came to bring men peace with God, and the daily experience of peace of heart. Only those who accept Christ as their personal Savior find peace with God and it is necessary to commit our life to Jesus Christ as the ruler of our lives in order to experience daily peace of heart.

When you come to Christ, the Holy Spirit will give you joy and peace in the midst of your trials and troubles.

Would you like to trust Jesus as your Savior? You can start by being willing to give up your sins and by receiving Him in simple childlike faith. John wrote in the gospel of John 1:12:

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

Christmas season is a wonderful time to tell the story of Jesus, a challenge to those who know Him and love Him.

Pray for our country, the leaders of the United States of America. Pray for your Pastor, Evangelist, Preachers and Sunday School teachers. Remember our brave service men and service women.

Askins attends Outreach Fair



Assistant Chief Gary Batton and Council Speaker Delton Cox present Lt. Governor Jari Askins with a beautiful shawl during the Choctaw Nation Outreach Fair at Antlers. Tribal members from the area were served lunch and had the opportunity to learn more about the tribe's Outreach services.

Choctaw Nation to host archaeological crime scene investigation training

Continued from Page 1
have the training to do so," he said.

The class focused on the background of the preservation laws, techniques to gather evidence, information on networks of artifact collectors, resources to prosecute violators and types of information needed for prosecution.

They trained on mock-up crime scenes during the course using equipment and resources such as ground penetrating radar, GPS location devices and arch maps, along with the vast knowledge of the participants involved.

The class also explained why a licensed archaeologist is required for historical background data and to make tribe-specific determinations. The archaeologists also serve as expert witnesses should the case go to trial.

"Archaeologists are involved to make determinations about tribe affiliation through burial locations, burial types, pottery or other artifacts found at the location," said Thompson.

"The Choctaw tribe is a 'removed tribe,'" he continued. "They came to this area from Mississippi in the 1830s but there were other tribes here already – the Caddo and Wichita tribes. We act as protectors not only for the Choctaw tribe but for the other tribes as well."

The types of disturbances range from arrowhead and pot

hunters to grave robbers and removal of buried remains.

"Traditional beliefs of the Choctaws are to leave remains where they are found or reburied as close as possible to the original location," explained Thompson.

"The objects they're taking belong to all of us and are sacred to Native Americans," he said.

Attending the training arose from a need for someone to work with law enforcement agents to stop and punish those disturbing tribal artifacts.

Sue Folsom, the executive director over the Cultural Resources and Historical Preservation Department, explained that their job is to "protect and preserve" the culture and heritage left behind by past Choctaws.

"In the past nothing has been done to people who committed these crimes," said Folsom. "They would take whatever they want from graves and tribal sites and would leave it disturbed. Now, with new laws and training, we can do something to stop it."

"These sites are sacred to the Choctaws," she continued.

Removal of artifacts from tribal land is a federal offense, so when there is an occurrence of this, the investigators work with tribal and federal marshals; when it takes place on private property, a misdemeanor, state and local authorities take the lead, with the assis-

tance of the tribal investigation team.

Their department investigates any disturbances to tribal archaeological resources and documents their findings.

"We record what is taken, do footprint castings, document anything that will make it more likely for a successful prosecution of those committing these crimes," said Thompson.

Investigation of these incidents requires methodical examination and documentation and must be treated as a crime scene by the investigation team.

"We have a responsibility to the Choctaws," said Cole. "We're now capable of protecting our ancestors."

The Choctaw Nation is the first tribe in Oklahoma to receive this training and the team will be available to advise and assist other tribes in the area.

"Most tribes don't have a trained investigation team with the ability to handle these situations," said Cole. "We're fortunate to have a Chief that supports the training and protection of our heritage and cultural resources. Hopefully we can set an example for other tribes in the state."

The Choctaw Nation will host training in archaeological crime scene investigation in Durant at the end of February. All tribal governments, along with state and federal agencies will be invited to attend the course.

Family participates in Memory Walk

Members of the Tillian Tickness James family (an original Choctaw enrollee), and of her daughters, Florence Stevenson, and Ruth James, families, participated in the Tulsa Memory Walk on the Oral Roberts University in Tulsa on October 3.

Memory Walk is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer care, support and research. Since 1989, Memory Walk has raised more than \$260 million for the cause. Memory Walk is a community event that joins friends, family and co-workers as they walk to end Alzheimer's. Participants typically register in teams of 10-12 and fundraise using tools supported by the Alzheimer's Association. Walks vary from one to three miles and are held in nearly 600 locations nationwide. All Memory Walk donations benefit the Alzheimer's Association, the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. The mission of the Alzheimer's Association is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

Many older Choctaws may remember Ruth James and her beautiful singing voice. She was given the name "Choctaw Nightingale" by the late former chief, Jimmy Belvin. She is in the last stages of Alzheimer's disease, which she has had for approximately 20 years. Ruth's mother, Tillian Tickness James, and sister, Florence James Stevenson, died of this disease. Her great-granddaughter, Tana Cleamons, started "The James Gang" who continues to participate in Memory Walks annually to raise money for Alzheimer's research.

Donations are still being accepted. If you would like to make a donation, please call Gwen Takes Horse at 580-924-8280, ext. 2297 or 580-579-9467. Checks can be made to Alzheimer's Association Oklahoma/Arkansas Chapter and mailed to P.O. Box 161, Colbert OK 74733 or you can go online to make a donation at www.tulsamemorywalk.kintera.org. Click on the donate button, and enter the name Gwen Takes Horse (last name is two words) and follow directions.

"The James Gang" would like to thank Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Choctaw Nation employees and friends for their donations in honor of Ruth James, and in memory of Florence Stevenson and Tillian James.



Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, from left, Tim Holt, Brittney Jackson and Carey Lester demonstrating the different visual impairments to the participants.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Visual Impairment Awareness Day

For the second year, the Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation (CNVR) program partnered with the Adolescent Family Life, Youth Outreach, Injury Prevention and the Community Health Representatives to provide activities for the youth during the annual Labor Day Festival for Kid's Activity Day.

The event targeted youth 18 years of age and younger and had a total of 371 participants.

The CNVR program's activity focused on educating the youth on what it's like to be a person with a visual impairment.

CNVR counselors were on hand to explain visual impairments and provide goggles to simulate what it is like to have impairments such as glaucoma, muscular degeneration, cataracts, tunnel vision and total blindness.

The purpose of the activity was to help the participants gain a new perspective and understanding of people with a visual impairment and how they must adapt to simple everyday life skills.



George Stevenson, Camille Stevenson, Terry Brazeal, Charlene Brazeal, Vinny Cleamons, Tana Cleamons, Billy Takes Horse, Gwen Takes Horse, Joseph Stevenson, Evan Stevenson. Not pictured, photographer Kathryn Stevenson.

Try It!

WIC

Most babies will eat whatever foods are offered to them. However, some young children refuse to even try new foods. What is happening? Your child is probably going through "food neophobia" - which is the fear of new foods.

It is very normal for young children to refuse some foods, however, it can be scary for parents. As a parent, you may be confused and worried that your child will suffer health or growth problems. Your child may not like every food they taste. However, if your child is willing to taste new foods, they are more likely to eat a wider variety of foods. One important eating habit is being willing to taste new foods.

HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN HEALTHY EATING HABITS WHICH WILL LAST A LIFETIME!

Offer a new food along with familiar foods. It will be less upsetting for your child to see a new food on their plate if there are also familiar foods on their plate.

Offer new foods often. Try new foods and recipes. Your child will learn that trying new foods is a normal habit for your family.

Let your child see you tasting and enjoying new foods. Your child learns best by watching what you and others eat.

Allow your child to spit out food they don't like. If your child does spit out new food, at least they tasted the food even if they didn't swallow it. Your child will feel better about trying new foods when they know they have a choice, and they have some control over what they are eating.

Be honest. Avoid hiding new foods or tricking your child to eat. Your child will trust you and will feel safe when trying new foods.

Don't give up! A child may need to try a new food 10 or more times before they actually accept it. Your child's first funny face when trying a new food is not rejection. It's just your child's response to something new. Try it again later!

Courtesy of Nutrition Matters, Inc.

Smoking can harm baby

When there is smoking in your home, it irritates your baby's nose, lungs and ears.

If you smoke, your baby will be more likely to: get sick with colds, bronchitis, pneumonia, sinus and ear infections, asthma, croup, eye irritations and colic; have to go to the doctor more often; die suddenly while sleeping (SIDS); grow up to be a smoker, have heart disease and lung cancer.

If you are breastfeeding, remember nicotine passes into your breast milk and reduces the amount of milk you produce.

Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life Project

The Choctaw Nation Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Project is an innovative program focused on pregnant

teens, their child, male partner and extended family members.

The AFL program provides opportunities for a brighter future through integrated services within the Choctaw Nation and other agencies.

Participants will expand their knowledge through prenatal education, relationship enhancement programs and parenting workshops.

Striving for healthy outcomes in adolescent family lives is the program goal. Services are provided through Choctaw Nation Outreach Services to pregnant Native American teens under 19 years of age or otherwise qualified through an eligible Native American.

For more information or questions about eligibility please call Angela Dancer, project manager, at 1-877-285-6893.

Contributed by Ashley Norris, AFL

NURSERY NEWS

Betheny Rochelle Pisachubbee-Cole



Rachel Boykin would like to announce the birth of her daughter, Betheny Rochelle Pisachubbee-Cole.

Betheny was born at 3:19 p.m. on September 24, 2009, at OU Medical Women and Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City. She weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and was 19.4 inches long.

She is the granddaughter of Sam and Jana Boykin. Her great-grandparents are Bob Williams of Hugo, and the late Mary (Pisachubbee) Williams, Vance Boykin of Soper, and the late Carol Boykin.

She is the niece of Rebeckah Boykin and Ethan Boykin. Her mother would like to also say thank you to her family and friends for the support, prayers and gifts.

Isabelle Kate Akers



Matt and Erin Akers are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Isabelle Kate Akers.

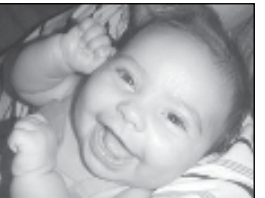
Isabelle was born at 9:52 a.m. on August 20, 2009, in Talihina and was 8 pounds 10 ounces and 20 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Barry and Cheryl Hughes of Poteau. Paternal grandparents are Steve and Susan Akers of Poteau.

Maternal great-grandparents are Glenna Hinton and the late Ben Hinton and Mamie Hughes and the late Arlie Hughes.

Paternal great-grandparents are Don Goad, June Morgan and Ron and Shirley Akers.

Imaya Danielle Courtney



Colby and Amber Courtney proudly announce the birth of their first child, Imaya Danielle.

She was born at 7:14 a.m. on April 28, 2009, and weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and was 18.6 inches long.

Her proud grandparents are Larry and Brenda Courtney of Yukon and Aaron and Sharon Edelman of San Diego, Calif.

Stetson Grayum Spears



Stetson Grayum Spears was born on October 10, 2009, weighing 10 pounds 2.4 ounces and measuring 22 inches long.

He is the son of proud parents Brad and Danielle Spears of McAlester.

He is the grandson of Clyde and Alice Spears of Gowen, Rhonda Willmott of Damon Valley, Carl Willmott and Susan McCauley of Puyallup, Wash.

Great-gandparents are Earl and the late Francis Spears, Joe and Mary Alice Benedict, the late Carl Willmott Sr. and Barbara Parker, James Moore and the late Juanita Harvey.

Brad and Danielle would like to express their appreciation to the Talihina Health Care staff for their dedicated service, thoughtfulness and excellent care.

Brook Lynn Delao



Brooke Lynn Delao was born June 29, 2009, to Stephanie Holdmand and Michael Delao of Poteau.

Maternal grandparents are Tammy and Greg Allison of Poteau and Teresa Sheriff of New Mexico.

Matthew Nuktalachi Caskey



Matthew Nuktalachi Caskey was born at 2:03 p.m. on October 5, 2009, at the Carl Albert Indian Hospital in Ada. He weighed 10 pounds and 1.4 ounces and was 21.2 inches long.

Proud parents are Chris and Kara Caskey of Ada.

Paternal grandparents are James and Kim Caskey, Ronald and Lou Ann McCoy, Harold and Gale Caskey, all of Lexington, and Anna Jenkins of Oklahoma City.

Maternal grandparents are Cleland and Sue Willis of Idabel. Great-grandparents are Amos Steele of Hochatown and the late Sweeley Steele and the late Dixon and Melba Willis.

Nuktalachi means "to heal the heart."

Jathan Marshall Walls



Jathan Marshall Walls was born on October 31, 2009, at the Choctaw Nation Health Care Center in Talihina. He weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces and was 20.1 inches long.

Proud parents are Joanna and T.J. Walls and proud big brother is Jake Walls of Talihina.

Xanden Lee Ward



Amber Hagger and Cody Ward are proud to announce the birth of their son, Xanden Lee Ward. He was born October 23, 2009, and weighed 6 pounds 3 ounces and was 19 inches long. Proud big brother is Drake Logan Stubbs.

Grandparents are Mary and Marc Payne and the late Terry Ward and Becky Peters, all of Hugo.

Great-grandmother is Betty Shawhart of Fort Towson. Other relatives include uncles Cody Peters and Canyon Taylor, aunts Tahasha Steed and Terra Ward and cousin Cayden Hostletler.

Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

(Starting December 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
Coalgate	580-927-3641	8:30-4:00	2nd Wednesday
Durant	580-924-8280 x 2255	8:00-4:30	Daily
Hugo	580-326-5404	8:00-4:30	Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 3rd & 4th Friday
Idabel	580-286-2510	8:00-4:30	Mon. & Fri., 1st & 3rd Thurs.
McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30	1st/2nd week - Mon., Tues. Wed., Fri.; 3rd/4th week - 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	Every Tuesday & Wednesday
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Thursday

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline

1 800 QUIT NOW



The Green Life

Doors can allow cold air to enter a room, even when they're closed.

The Daily Green reports that drafts waste five percent to thirty percent of your home's energy.

A rolled towel placed at the base of the door is an easy option for stopping unwanted air flow.

Dear Santa,



BENNINGTON HEAD START

Madison – I want a Barbie with a momma dog and a baby dog, like the one I saw on TV. A pretty horse and a baby with a duck hat, purple and red clothes, and a bathtub to give it a bath.

Maiya – I want to thank you for bring all our toys, thank you I love you Santa. I want a new bike I can ride super fast.

Kylie – I want a princess bike, a snow white one, and a helmet that is the mermaid. I want socks and a princess doll, one snow white and the mermaid.

Kadence – I want a bike and I want a bike for my sister.

Jake – I want a spike the dinosaur, a big big dinosaur and a little one. A big crash car to crash into everything with a ramp. I want a jet ski too a little one, my dad has a big one.

“P.S. I leave you
an Indian Taco.”

Opal – I want a baby doll.

Alex – I want another race car that has bubbles, like the other Christmas.

Lucas – I want a parachute, so I can jump from the tree in the yard and a cowboy horse I can ride really fast.

Colby – I want a sword to play with; I will play with my brother.

Mason – I want a big tractor, monster truck and a raccoon. Not a real raccoon, real ones are mean. My mom a coffee maker and dad a monster truck.

Danni – I want people to help Santa and a baby to play with my sissy.

Cayden – I want a motorcycle, a big one and one for my bubba, a little one.

Mason – I want a monster truck that pushes stuff; a car with buttons to push that makes it light up. A batman car and batman.

Skie – I want make-up, books that I can read to every-one, shoes, and princess table.

Cache – I want a Dora doll house for Christmas.

BETHEL CHAHTA VLLA INTERLOCAL PRESCHOOL

Cason – I think I’ve been a pretty good boy and I will be sure to leave you some cookies and milk. I would like some monster trucks. Please bring an extra truck for my baby brother. I want a case to put all my trucks in too.

Cason – I want a Christmas tree, Dora the Explorer doll with Boots the monkey. And Barbie Girl Camper and Barbie Girl with pretty wings, the color books, the big crayons, pretty clothes, Twinkle the Toes shoes and Sunshine with a Funny Face, and more dolls. More dress up clothes.

P.S. I don’t know how to make the cookies yet.

James (LJ) – My name is LJ and I want the Ho Ho Ho Firetruck, Power Ranger, Transformer, police car, Tonka trucks, see my Daddy, GI Joe soldiers, clothes, Sponge Bob and Patrick, the Grandma Kaye, Tim, gas truck, transformer.

Elizabeth – I want a baby puppy that’s nice. I want a 4-wheeler.

Mealea – My name is Melea Habli. I have been a very good girl this year. I would like you to bring me a ice cream maker, snow cone maker, oven to cook cupcakes in and lots of baby dolls for my baby sister Millei.

P.S. I leave you an Indian Taco.

Ashlyn – I want Moxie

girls, Pixos, girl gourmet, kitty cat, anything with Backyardigans.

Layla – I would like a Dora bicycle, Tinkerbell curtains, Tinkerbell pictures, and make-up. Barbie, dolls clothes, and shoes.

Brayden – Halito Santa. I want a big monster truck ... Oh, please, can I have one? I need a new bike so I can ride with my big brother. I also need a Transformer. And a new race track – the one that lets you jump over the little city. I will share with Bryce because he wants one. I would like a 4-wheeler so I can race my brother and drive by myself. I already have a helmet. So, I don’t need one. This is all I need right now. Thank you.

Diamond – My name is Diamond. I am 4 years old. I have been a good girl this past year. I would like for you to bring me some lipstick, some butterfly wings, a baby doll, a Dora doll, a Bingo game, a phone, an electric dinosaur, a horse, make-up and some toys for my brother.

Logan – I have been a very good boy this year. Please bring me a toy cowboy hat, a new pistol and a gun holder. Also a safari costume, binoculars, and a hat.

Kaylyn – For Christmas I would like to receive a Barbie car, Barbie house, Barbie shoes, Barbie clothes, and also I would like a cat called Barbie. And I would like my family to have an great Christmas day. Also, Santa, would you please bring my grandmother a present? Her name is Pat.

P.S. I will leave milk and cookies for you, I love you Santa very much.

Riley Ann – I want a big Tinker Bell house and two Tinker Bells. I want two little bitty tiny chairs for my dolls. Thank you Santa, we will leave chocolate milk and cookies out for you.

Zoe – My name is Zoe. I am 3 years old and I would like a little doggie. I would also like some Barbies and flowers. I will leave you some milk and cookies.

COALGATE HEAD START

Brandon – I want a toy gun, a Bat Man bill, an airplane and a car. Will you please come to my house?

Caleb H. – I want a real cow, pig and horse, and toy gun. I don’t want toys, I want animals.

Falyn – I want a pair of boot, Dora the Explorer and Winnie the Pooh toys. I also want some books.

Justice – I want a horse for Christmas.

Kaylee – Please give me chocolate. Where are the reindeers? Bring me a Mickey Mouse toy, a Hula Hoop and Barbie Car. Bring Mom, Gary, Bubba and Nana a present too.

Cade – I want a grader, dozer, and a vanilla ice cream cone and some fruit.

Savanah – I want a real pony, crocodile, bird and candy. How are your reindeer? Please bring a toy reindeer. I will give you chicken.

Damien – Bring me a giant robot and firemen toys. That’s all.

Lupe – How are you? Bring me a toy dog, a teddy bear and a doll. A bottle for my baby brother and something for my mama and daddy. I will leave you some spaghetti.

Jonny – I want an airplane, a car, clothes, candy, lemons and ice cream. Is it snowing at your house? I will leave you food.

Mikalynn – Bring me a real baby reindeer and a puppy.

Caleb P. – I want a transformer.

Easton – I want army toys. Just bring me big presents and

little presents. I want a little black bow and arrow for me. I will feed the reindeer macaroni and cheese and give you spaghetti.

Rylie – I want a toy pony, bike, roller coaster toy, toy box, and sand toys. I will give you white milk and cookies.

Bentley – I want a Sponge-Bob truck and just toys. I like snow at my house so I can see it.

DURANT HEAD START

MS. PATTI’S CLASS

Tate – I don’t know. I want a gun with fake bullets.

Lucy – I want a princess, with a fake arm, face, eyes, ears and hair.

Hailey – A light for dark, a bracelet, computer, elephant and a book.

Riley – New stove (for mommy to cook stuff), power blaster gun, and mummy toy and puppet.

Malachi – I want a airplane with shooter guns, mummy toy with wrapper on him, Batman airplane with a gun on his back, he is driving it.

Hailey – Want a bear pillow, bear blanket, paper, crayons, markers and blocks.

Rowdy – Want a flash light,

“Halito Santa. I
want a big monster
truck ... Oh, please,
can I have one?”

teddy bear, and a pirate pillow.

Jay – Pillow, tractor, hat and boots.

Andres – Duck, cow and horse.

Maria – Want a pink dress with a crown, purse, princess bike, Dora, Barbie.

Martin – Bike.

Zoey – Tooth brush, new clothes, new shoes, toys and new Barbies.

Justus – Truck.

Nakni – Motorcycle, truck, race car and water gun.

Preston – Airplane.

Ashton – Batman car.

Marcal – Transformers and Spiderman.

MISS JESSIE’S CLASS

Micah – Candy and ice cream.

Maddyson – Dora and Green Boots.

Marcus – Toys and candy.

Erica – Boots.

Langley – Cinderella.

Eli – A Dora and a toy car.

Ethan – A big toy.

Brynna – I want everything!!!

Hunter – Probably a seal.

Trinity – A Superman.

Patrick – A donkey, a cowboy donkey.

Carlos – A duck and a puppy.

Candis – Toys.

Aleena – Clothes.

Nevaeh – Toys.

Kelten – A race car, that’s all.

Brooklyn – A princess from Wal-Mart.

HUGO HEAD START

MRS. FIERIEL AND MRS. HOLLIE’S CLASS

Adam – I want a train. More cars, black boots like Santa Claus and also his hat. Gloves. I want Santa to pick Daniel up. Mama needs Christmas lights. I want daddy to have a new truck. A dog named Boat.

Bryden – A pastic dummy to wrap around the horns. I want my Daddy to win a buckle. I want some chapstick. Get Momma some nails. I will take a roping pen for a goat, so we can rope it. I’ll take some



bulls, and head horse like my daddy’s. I also want a computer.

Jaren – I want some Lego deals that come with four people, a 4 wheeler and a big long truck. I want movies – Spongebob, Scooby Doo and the Mystery again. A new soccer ball and new banks. A new TV. A new desk for my new TV. Christmas stickers for MeMe and grandpa that stays there.

Reagan – A doll and a toy puppy. I also want a princess.

Taylor – Race car lights for my Bubba. I want a princess light for me, I also want a little girl rocking chair. I want a princess big book I can color in. I want paints and Choctaw language. I need a vacuum for my Bubba, make it green. I want chapstick and long nails.

Lorelei – I want lots of babies. Three babies. Corn for my babies. Macroni and cheese for my mama. Chicken nuggets for Hailey bop. Bring Meemaw a pretzel. I want macroni and cheese.

Tyler – A pirate ship and it builds to a bigger boat. Transformer that turns into a helmet and a transformer with a toy gun. I want two airplanes. I want a bumble bee that turns into a car. Get my Mom a heart necklace. Get Dad a pirate suit. And a transformer that turns into a truck. That’s all I want.

Nevaeh S. – A pirate ship. I want toy elephants. I want a microphone to sing like Hannah Montana. I would like toy cars, and make-up, pencils and glasses. I want finger paints, hats, pens and basketballs. I also want erasers and stickers.

Elexis – A princess book. I want a Dora book. I want a princess book, again. I want some babies, clothes, dishes and computer. I want a desk. I want a horse and doghouse. Bring Mom pictures and Dad headphones and a car. Bring Mamaw books and Nanny a Big Momma books, too. Don’t forget Grandma Lois books.

Jehma – I want this Barbie thing that you can cut its hair and put new hair on it. Clothes because I need some. I would like a brand new swimming pool for my Barbies. I would like to buy a baby stroller with my credit card. I want a red car that I can drive (you don’t have to have a driver’s license) it’s a play car.

Dontre – I want a motorcycle and chicken. Airplanes. I want a spiderman toys. A computer, a new one. I want some ghosts, and scary ones with scary houses. A monster truck. A computer chair, so I can sit on it while I play on my new computer.

Hunter – A alligator and a sword. I want a dog. I want my mom to have some new clothes. Dad wants tools. I want a 4-wheeler.

Skylar – I want a 4-wheeler and a brown dog. A motorcycle. A new truck for my mom. I want a big dirt bike for my sister, Nana, Austin and Trenton. I want tools for my daddy and clothes for my Mama. I want a big dirt bike for me and a little dirt bike for Sierra.

Adya – A new jacket and a baby doll.

Jayden – A bowling ball. I want a helicopter with a controller. I want a wallet to put my stuff in. Get mom a heart.

Get Dad a basketball. That’s it.

Camden – I want Santa to bring me candy. A firecracker that’s really big. Bring mama big candy. Daddy doesn’t want anything.

MRS. CAROLYN AND MRS. BRANDY’S CLASS

Natalie – I want my daddy, baby dolls and mommy bicycle.

Cayden – A puppy.

Braxton Chumley – ABCs, a mouse toy, real goat with horns, a real cow, real worms, and nothing else.

McKayla – A cupcake maker, a bike, a cake maker, a style thing that you make with belts, a baby doll.

Aidan – Indiana Jones toy, Legos, Star Wars.

Frank – Legos, a big ole book, candy, Santa Clauses toys.

Macy – A snowman, mimi, paper, a big tall tree, a apple, a kitty cat, a chicken, a different house, a sheep.

Brendon – A fire truck, trailer, tractor, truck, car, a puzzle, crayons, train.

Jacob – Lightning McQueen and Doc cars, a new movie called Cars, ABC poster, a real computer.

“Hey Santa, can
I have a drum set
cause I’m gonna be
in a rockin show.”

Canyon – Shotguns, Troy a present, my dad a birthday, toys.

Travion – A toy sheep, a frog, a bounce ball with a handle on it, gorilla, Mickey Mouse toy.

Laniya – A Baby Alive, a baby dog, Hannah Montana, Brettes, some baby dolls.

Kyria – A pink scooter, suckers, three of them, a baby doll, Barbie doll, dog, and a kitty cat.

Nevaeh G. – A pig that says oink, gum, a snake, a kitty cat, and everything I want everything.

Alison – A kitty cat, a puppy, a shirt, some flowers, a bicycle.

Chance – A doggy, a kitty cat, a mountain cougar, a wolf, a choo-choo train, a water wheel it spins water, a workshop, and a toy box for a whole lot of toys and tools for my workshop.

MCALESTER HEAD START

MS. LORI AND MS. MANOAH’S GROUP

Cahner – 4-wheeler
DeMarion – Dirt bike
Jasmine – Transformer
Jaxen – Cowboy
Evan – Bicycle
Chants – Batman
Derrick – Spiderman toy
Riley – Remote control car
Raelyn – Barbie doll
Kaylee – Guitar
Stormie – Books
Mahli – Baby doll
Hailey – Horse
Braxton – Horsie
Joseph – Dinosaur

Malachi – Remote control boat with truck and trailer

MS. NANCY AND MS. AMANDA’S GROUP

Adrian – Dinosaur
AbbyAnn – Barbie
Greg – Big horse
Kayleigh – Barbie
Mathew – Shopping cart with food

Jordyn – Dinosaur
Brookelyn – Make-up
Christian – Monkey ring toss

Evan – Horse
Jonathon – Horse
Adelyn – Sleeping Beauty
Carter – Motorcycle
Jayden – Motorcycle and track
Aireanna – Make-up
Hayden – Train
Freddie – Thomas trains
Carly – Baby with bottle

POTEAU HEAD START

Daryus – Bring me a plane. Bring me a Christmas tree and a dog. Bring me a black club and a baby horse. That’s all.

Brandon – Hey Santa, can I have a drum set cause I’m gonna be in a rockin show.

Kylie – I want Santa to bring me shoes for my baby doll – the big one. I want a stroller for my baby too.

Lana – I want a baby. I only want one – one baby.

Miguel – Grass, Christmas. Get me a present and toys.

Jezebel – He wants to give me something. Toys and a tree and a hat.

Lea – Like balloons. I would like two for mom. Pink. Make me a tree. Thank you Santa.

Alexia – I want a candy cane. Gimme me a bear. Please ... I see a Christmas tree and people.

“I want a red car
that I can drive (you
don’t have to have
a driver’s license)
it’s a play car.”

Kyleigh – I would like a baby. I want one of those presents.

Kadence – I want Tinker Bell and a Barbie doll.

Elizabeth – I want a baby puppy that’s nice. I want a 4-wheeler.

Lacey – Turkey. Turtle. Thank you.

Jordan – Presents and toys and flashlight. Bring the presents.

Logan – I want to have a power rangers suit and a robot. I want a Santa book and a GI Joe toy. I want a Scooby Doo haunted house thing. A snow toy. I want to have monkey jumping bed.

Tanner – I want an ice cream toy. I want a cowboy hat and ball and an alligator. A battlegun.

Kaydenze – Bratz baby movie. Mickey Mouse club house, tree house, little people thing two of them, lots of Bratz babies.

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Happy 10th Birthday

Tamiera Jones celebrated her 10th birthday on December 7. She is the daughter of Lisa Thompson and Irwin and Evion Jones. Her family wishes her a happy birthday!



Happy first birthday

Phabion LyDell Williams celebrated his first birthday on November 17. He is the son of Silas Arce and Auzuanay Williams of Dallas, Texas. Also wishing him a happy birthday are his nana Shirley Wilkins and papa Ben Arce and his family and friends in Dallas.



Canyon turns nine

The family of Canyon Lane Taylor would like to wish him a happy ninth birthday on December 20. Canyon is a quarter Choctaw and proud. Canyon is in the third grade at Hugo Elementary and is on the A-B Honor Roll. He loves to play baseball and football.



His parents are Becky Peters and Dwayne and Brenda Taylor, all of Hugo. Grandparents are William and Judy Taylor and Theda Lamb and the late Dodson Lamb of Hugo and Becky Shawhart of Fort Towson.

He has three nephews, two brothers and four sisters. Other family include aunts and uncles Rhonda and Terry Anderson, Sharon Blankenship, Pam Frailicks, Barbara Curtis and numerous cousins

His family would like to tell him they love and adore him very much!

Rev. Tuska honored at ceremony

The Rev. Jim Tuska was honored at a ceremony on October 24 before the Anadarko Church Conference in Anadarko. There were ministers represented from all over the United States and Canada to honor the Rev. Tuska.



He has served 40 years in ministry. He was diagnosed with cancer last year and is now in remission.

The Choctaw Nation assisted with the food for the celebration and several of the tribes in Anadarko worked together to provide round trip airfare for Mr. Tuska and his two daughters.

He was grateful that even though he has been away from Broken Bow for so long Choctaw Nation still helped honor him on this special occasion. He has been pastoring a church at the Crow Agency in Montana for several years.

Bianca turns five

Bianca Genevieve Fuller's family would like to wish a very happy birthday to their "little angel." She turns five on December 17. She is a very special little girl and the light of their life. She brings so much joy and happiness to everyone she meets.



Happy ninth birthday!

David and Beatrice Bohanan of Houston, Texas, would like to wish their daughter Tala Lynn Bohanan a belated happy birthday. Tala turned nine on October 4, 2009.



Tala would like to wish her Mom and Dad and Grandpa Hack and Grandma Ella and uncle Steve and aunt Debbie of Bethel a belated happy anniversary.

Tala wants to also wish a belated birthday to her uncles Bobby Bohanan and Daniel Bohanan and her cousins Christopher and Andrew Noah.

They would like to congratulate Christopher Noah and Christy Bishop on the new birth of their daughter Mariah D. Noah, born September 21, 2009.

Happy 55th birthday

Happy 55th birthday Joyce Tallant!

From your family, husband Dave Anderson of Joplin, Mo.; parents Ann Tallant of Bakersfield Calif. and Carl and Janis Walker of Joplin, brothers and sisters; children Bill and Dezirai Witt of Talihina, Tim and Teresa Rickey of St. Clair, Mo., Kenny Rickey and grandchildren Jack Daniels, both of Talihina, Alisha Valentine, Matt Witt, Brandon Witt, Blake Witt, Levi Rupe and Zack Rupe, all of Joplin, Ocean Rickey and Chyeann Rickey of St. Clair. Great-grandchildren are Madison and Tyson Witt, Jayden Smith and Natalie Witt, all of Joplin.



Happy 21st birthday

Happy 21st birthday Matt Witt!

From your family, great-grandparents Ann Tallant of Bakersfield, Calif., Carl and Janis Walker, grandparents Dave and Joyce Anderson, Betty Witt and Donna all of Joplin, Mo.; parents Bill and Suzette Lanford, siblings Shawn and wife Alisha Valentine, Megan Witt, Brandon Witt and Blake Witt, all of Joplin, Jack Daniels of Talihina; and daughter and son Madison and Tyson Witt.



Other family includes nephew and niece Jayden Smith and Natalie Witt of Joplin, aunt and uncles Tim and Teresa Rickey of St. Clair, Mo., Terry Witt of Joplin and Kenny Rickey of Talihina; cousins Ocean and Chyeann Rickey of St. Clair, Levi and Zack Rupe of Joplin.

Happy 97th birthday

Happy 97th birthday to Laura Carney of Smithville on December 26! Sending her this birthday wish are her loving children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandson.



Biggest birthday wishes from your son Elton Carney.

Toglia wins scholarship

Maxim Toglia, 16, son of Dawn Spring, grandson of Joel Spring and great-great-great-great-grandson of Principal Chief Basil LeFlore, has been awarded the AFS Yoshi Hattori Memorial Scholarship.

Max will spend a year in Japan beginning in March 2010 with the AFS intercultural program. He competed nationally for the scholarship which pays his full expenses to Japan.

The scholarship is a merit-based and "designed to promote intercultural understanding and peace and was created in memory of Yoshi Hattori, and AFS exchange student to the U.S. from Japan who was tragically killed in 1992."



Choctaw Nation 2009 Men's Fastpitch Champions

Front row (l-r) Jerrod James, Todd Tucker, Kendall Bright, Bossy Drywater, Fabian Glass-MVP, Dink, Rick Taylor
Back row (l-r) Elmer Glass, Reggie McKinney, Joe Owl, Bryan Ishcomer, Dave Buzzard, Mike Sanders, Eddie Ridge, Zack Christie, Cory Tucker, Leon Mouse-Not pictured.

Happy birthday Neko

Chief Greg Pyle wishes little Neko Wingfield a happy birthday on December 16. They are pictured at Stigler's Thanksgiving dinner.



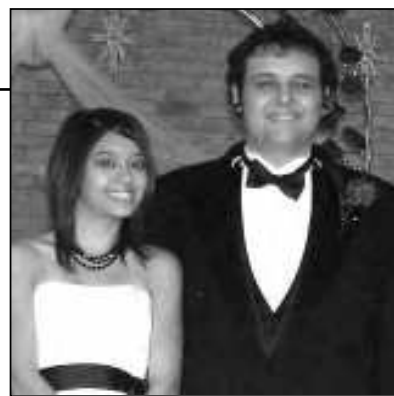
Happy fifth, Kaden

Kaden Danderson celebrated his fifth birthday on November 22 at the Caddo Park with family and friends. Happy birthday Kaden from Mom, Evan and family and friends.



Wood/Wuerz wedding

Jon Christopher Wood and Heather Eileen Wuerz were united in marriage October 24. The marriage was celebrated at the First United Methodist Church in Bonham, Texas, with the Rev. Liz Talbert officiating.



Jon is the son of Cheryl and Christopher Wood of Bonham and is a descendent of original enrollee Wilson J. Beal. Heather is the daughter of Irene and Darin Wuerz of Ector, Texas.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. The reception followed the ceremony in the Church's Fellowship Hall. The couple has established their home in Sherman, Texas.

Happy 22nd birthday

Happy 22nd birthday Alisha Valentine!

From your family, great-grandparents Ann Tallant of Bakersfield, Calif., Carl and Janis Walker, grandparents Dave and Joyce Anderson, Betty Witt and Donna, all of Joplin, Mo., parents Bill and Dezirai Witt of Talihina and Rob and Suzette Wilson Lanford, husband Shawn Valentine, siblings Matt and Megan Witt, Brandon Witt and Blake Witt, all of Joplin and Jack Daniels of Talihina; nephews and niece Madison and Tyson Witt, Jayden Smith and Natalie Witt, all of Joplin; aunt and uncles Tim and Teresa Rickey of St. Clair, Mo., Kenny Rickey of Talihina and Terry Witt, cousins Levi and Zack Rupe, all of Joplin and Ocean and Chyeann Rickey of St. Clair.



Happy second birthday

Happy second birthday Natalie Witt!

From your family, great-great-great-grandmother Ann Tallant of Bakersfield, Calif.; great-great-grandparents Carl and Janis Walker, great-grandparents Dave and Joyce Anderson, Betty Witt and Donna, all of Joplin; grandparents Bill and Dezirai Witt of Talihina and Rob and Suzette Wilson Lanford, parents Shawn and Alisha Valentine of Joplin; uncles and aunt Matt and Megan Witt, Brandon Witt and Blake Witt, all of Joplin, and Jack Daniels of Talihina.



Aunt and uncles Tim and Teresa Rickey of St. Clair, Mo., Terry Witt of Joplin and Kenny Rickey of Talihina; and cousins Madison and Tyson Witt, brother Jayden Smith, and cousins Levi and Zack Rupe, all of Joplin, and Ocean and Chyeann Rickey of St. Clair.

Ladners celebrate 50th

Mr. and Mrs. Ott Ladner of Jimtown recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Ott Ladner and Laquita Holt were married August 28, 1959, at the First Methodist Church in Marietta.



The couple has spent their entire married life on a farm in Jimtown. Ott continues to farm and ranch and Laquita has worked as a substitute teacher in Turner and Marietta.

The couple attends First Methodist Church of Marietta and are active in the community and county as volunteers, among those helping with the upkeep of the Jimtown and Oswalt cemeteries and the Love County Historical Society Pioneer Museum.

Their children are Rhidonah Ladner-Neal of Monroe, Wash., and Brian Ladner of Jimtown. Grandchildren are Brian Ladner II, Burk Ladner Jones and Audry Ladner.

Happy 30th anniversary

John and Silvia Palmer of Commerce, Texas, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary with a reception given in their honor and hosted by their daughter, Tina Chambers.



The Palmers were married November 21, 1979,

in Garland, Texas, and moved to Commerce, Texas, in 1992. They have been blessed with a blended family of five children, Kirk, Tammy, Joe, Tina and Johnny, as well as eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Palmer's mother was Lorane (Spring) Palmer and his grandfather was John "Dutch" Spring. The family is very proud of their Choctaw blood line.

Happy second birthday

Happy birthday to Michael Delao of Poteau. His second birthday was August 28.

"Happy Birthday!" from Meme and Papa.



Dewetts visit Oklahoma City

Anna Dewett and Janice Dewett spent a few days in Oklahoma City. They toured the Capitol, museums and the Oklahoma City Memorial. While at the Capitol they visited Rep. John Carey's secretary Jean and invited her out to lunch. While eating, they had a very good visit and a good time



Happy ninth birthday

Rio Tate Ralls turned nine on November 27.

He is in the third grade at Sequoyah Elementary School in Oklahoma City.

He is active in football, basketball, Cub Scouts and church. His mother, Darcey Scott, would like to join Joey, Nana, Uncle Darby, Papaw, Grandpa and Alvina in wishing him a great year.

Southeast Oklahoma Region receives Work Ready Certification



Eddie Coleman, Superintendent Kiamichi Technology Centers; Dr. Phil Chitwood, President Kiamichi Technology Centers School Board; Secretary of State The Honorable M. Susan Savage; Gary Batton, Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and Dr. Ken English, Director Choctaw Nation Career Development Program.

13 counties involved in workforce effort

Thirteen Oklahoma counties added an important tool in their job creation kits when they received "Work Ready" recognition from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. This certification process was a collaborative effort by Commerce, the Kiamichi Technology Centers, Choctaw Nation Career Development, Southeast Workforce Investment Board, and the Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma (KEDDO).

Commerce recognized the 13 Southeastern Oklahoma counties – Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Johnston, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, McIntosh, Pittsburg and Pushmataha – as "Oklahoma's Premier Work Ready Region" during a ceremony at the Kiamichi Technology Center McCurtain County Campus. Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce and Tourism Natalie Shirley praised the combined efforts of the regional leaders to become the fourth area in the state to earn Oklahoma Certified Work Ready status and the first multi-county region to earn the

distinction.

"The key to economic development in Oklahoma is workforce recruitment, training, and certification," Shirley said. "The Work Ready certification is a tool that will strengthen the pipeline of skilled workers in Oklahoma. It says this region is ready to do business."

Shirley said the new Certified Work Ready Region has 91 school districts within its boundaries.

Managed by the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development and Commerce, the Certified Work Ready Program quantifies the

skilled workforce available to an existing employer or a new business considering Oklahoma for a new location.

Norma Noble, Oklahoma Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary of Workforce Development, said every state in the nation is competing to attract industry and grow existing businesses.

"What it takes to compete effectively is a skilled and available workforce," Noble said. "Regional partnerships like the one in Southeastern Oklahoma can automatically gain a competitive advantage over non-certified regions."

Career Development adds a new program

The vision of the Choctaw Nation is to achieve healthy, successful, productive and self-sufficient lifestyles for a proud nation of Choctaws. The mission of the Choctaw Nation is to enhance the lives of all members through opportunities designed to develop healthy, successful and productive lifestyles.

In staying aligned with the mission of the Choctaw Nation, Career Development is excited to bring a new program to its clients living within its 10 1/2 counties. The Choctaw Asset Building Program (CAB) provides the following: Financial Independence, Financial Literacy Training, and Matching Funds (IDA).

IDAs are matched savings accounts that are designed to encourage regular saving habits and investment in assets (such as a home or education) that increase in value over time. Account holders save a minimum of \$25 of their earnings each month for up to three years. CAB then matches these savings at a rate of \$3 of matching funds for every \$1 of personal savings for housing accounts. Entrepreneurial and educational accounts receive \$2 of matching funds for every \$1 of personal savings. The total of your personal savings and matching funds can be used to pay for expenses associated with buying a first home, attending college or vocational school, or starting or expanding a small business.

You must meet income and other requirements to qualify for the CAB program. Contact us for more information about program requirements, www.choctawcareers.com/cab.html.

To the Youth of the Nation

Teen dating violence

By Apryl Mock, Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

It recently came to my attention that teen dating violence is a major problem in our society. Many teenagers do not know that violence can be more than physical abuse. No one has told them what is normal and what is not normal in a dating relationship. Studies show that abuse in a teenage dating relationship is so common that it is considered normal.

Teen dating violence is any abusive behavior by one or both partners in a teen dating relationship. There are many types of dating abuse. Some types of abuse are physical, emotional/verbal, sexual, and harassment, just to name a few. How can you tell if you are a victim of one of these types of abuse? What is abuse anyway?

Physical abuse is the most widely recognized type of abuse. It can include slapping, biting, punching, pushing, or pulling hair. Surprisingly girls are more likely than boys to be the perpetrators of physical abuse, due to that fact that there is no social stipulation against it. However, girls are more likely to be seriously injured by physical abuse.

Emotional/verbal abuse is the most common type of abuse among teenagers. It includes name-calling, controlling behaviors, jealousy and attempts to undermine self-esteem, or committing a bias, or hate crime. Sexual abuse is any form of unwanted intimate contact, sexual comments, or coerced sex. Harassment is a very common form of abuse also. We've all seen the commercials with the obsessively texting boyfriend right? Harassment can mean just that, excessive texts, phone calls, voicemails, or any unwanted communication.

Psychologist Lenore Walker developed a theory known as the "cycle of violence." This "cycle of violence" has three stages. In stage one minor abuse occurs, usually the victim blames themselves and tries hard to please the other partner. In stage two the trying to please doesn't work, the abuse becomes more severe and the victim is in shock and denial. In stage three the abuser will be kind, loving and apologetic, swearing it will never happen again. This may last for a few weeks or months and the victim begins to wonder if they were really just over-reacting.

Don't be a victim. There is help out there and it is easy to find. Talk to a school counselor or teacher. There are several places you can go for help, such as health centers or women's shelters. You don't have to be treated this way; everyone deserves to be in a loving relationship.



Youth Advisory Board holds annual conference

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board held its annual conference recently at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine, Texas. Every year YAB members from the 10 1/2 counties of the Choctaw Nation come together to be educated on topics faced by teens. There were approximately 260 YAB members and adults present for the conference.

The YAB was educated on topics such as HIV/STDs prevention, Teen Dating Violence and Youth Suicide Prevention. A youth panel was created of YAB members who had been subject to alcoholism, drug ad-

iction, domestic violence and teen pregnancy. The rest of the YAB heard the panel's stories and were able to ask questions and discuss how these issues can effect youth. The facilitator for this year's conference was Eddie Slowikowski of Chicago, Ill. He used dance and music to present a program to the group which was both motivational and life-changing. Also present at the conference as presenters were Gina Barnett with Choctaw County Health Department, Lari Brister, Davania Rowell and Sandra Twaddle with Choctaw Nation Project Safe

and Karen Heard with Choctaw Nation Wind Horse.

The YAB held an official meeting to discuss issues that each chapter might be facing. They also elected new officers for the year. The officers for this year are Chair – Preston Wells, Vice Chair – Jessie Blackwell, and Secretary – Kyler Whiteis.

This year some of the YAB Alumni (members who have graduated) attended as chaperones. The alumni helped with room checks and any way that they were needed to assist with the conference.

The alumni did an awesome

job of helping out. Alumni present were KC Wood, Erin DeWalt, Jake Burch, Severt Dahl, Lindsey Smith, Starla Horton and Kerwin Moore.

The conference wasn't all work. The group also had a costume dance with a Mardi Gras theme. They enjoyed the indoor water park and arcade while at the conference as well.

This year's conference was a success and the Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles staff would like to thank all who were there to help. This conference would not have been possible without your help.



YAB members attend Life Ride Leadership Camp

Nineteen chapter representatives of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board attended Life Ride, a weeklong leadership camp in Lacon, Ill., this past summer. The youth flew into Chicago on July 11 and had the opportunity to sight-see before heading to camp on the 12th.

Through the week, new friendships were made with local youth who had also attended the camp. The camp helped the chapter representatives break down what leadership was, what it meant to them and how they could apply it in their lives. Before leaving, each youth had established some type of personal goal.

It was a long, exhausting week and although everyone was ready to head back to Oklahoma, it was a sad departure. Those attending Life Ride were Jessie Blackwell and Kyler Whiteis of Howe, Summer Durant of Heavener, Erika Monks of Stigler, Alex Barrs of Talihina, A.J. Velasquez of Antlers, David Batton of Clayton, Apryl Mock of Boswell, Tyler Minyard of Bennington, Beckah Boykin of Soper, Preston Wells of Hugo, Adolfo Martinez of Broken Bow, Teyler Williston of Idabel, Hailee Cusher of Bethel, Carrie Clem of Coalgate, Tarah Scott of Durant, Faith Mincher of Atoka, Blade Brown of Red Oak and Tasha Meashintubby of McAlester. Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles staff attending the camp were Joyce Wells, Melissa Cress, Martina Hawkins and Shonnie Hall.

Choctaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation

JANUARY 2010

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
A Vocational Rehab representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday through Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.						1 Holiday	2
	3	4	5 Antlers By Appt.	6 Durant 10:00-2:00	7	8 Idabel 10:00-2:00	9
	10	11 Talihina 10:00-2:00	12	13 McAlester 10:00-2:00 Stigler By Appt.	14	15	16
	17	18	19 Poteau 11:30-1:00	20	21	22 Broken Bow 10:00-2:00	23
	24	25 Crowder By Appt.	26 Wilburton 10:300-2:00	27 Atoka 10:00-2:00 Coalgate 10:30-1:30	28	29 Wright City & Bethel By Appt.	30
	31						

Striving to 'Make a Difference'

As phase two of the Life Ride Leadership Camp attended by the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board, three Life Ride staff – Emily Hollenbeck, Barbara Shallow and Matt Dunham – traveled from Illinois to Oklahoma to participate in "Make a Difference Day." The chapter representatives and Life Ride staff spent the day in McAlester doing minor home repairs, home weatherization, painting and cleanup for people who just needed some help.

Some of the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board said that this project made them more appreciative of things they had previously taken for granted. They also stated that it was a great opportunity to meet some really nice people.

After a long day of work, the group wrapped up with fellowship and pizza!

CNYAB members who



worked on "Make a Difference Day" included Summer Durant of Heavener, Alex Barrs of Talihina, A.J. Velasquez of Antlers, David Batton of Clayton, Adolfo Martinez of Broken Bow, Faith Mincher of Atoka, Jessie Blackwell and Kyler Whiteis of Howe, Carrie Clem of Coalgate,

Madison Cress of Boswell and Crystal Tate of Bennington.

Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles staff who worked on "Make a Difference Day" were Joyce Wells, Martina Hawkins, Shonnie Hall, Clint Cannon and Amanda Gabbert.



The Choctaw Nation's Veterans Day event at Tushka Homma is attended by veterans, their family, friends and staff.

A salute to our veterans

Continued from Page 1

roots of Veterans Day can be traced to World War I when an armistice was signed and a great victory was won.

"But it was not as the world hoped it would be at the time, the 'war to end all wars.'

"Since that time, evil has repeatedly re-emerged in new lands with new tyrants rallying under different banners, though the cry for destruction and despair is always

the same. And though the forces of darkness have emerged to spread fear in peaceful lands for more than 200 years, they have been overwhelmed by the light of liberty carried by American fighting forces on the field of battle.

America remains today, as it was when she was founded: a bright beacon of hope for every human being whose soul longs for freedom. America is a land built on the promise of a second chance for every person, a land where the trials and tears of yesterday are wiped away without penalty, where hope is reborn in



Public Safety Executive Director John Hobbs salutes the flag.



Choctaw Nation Color Guard posts the colors.



Willie Walley, above, points out the name of his uncle, Jacob Walley, who died in action in World War I.



John Berry places a wreath at the base of the World War II memorial.

the hearts of the hopeless the very instant someone sets foot on these shores. The reason redemption is possible in America is because we are the freest nation ever to exist on the face of the earth.

"But while America freely makes her gifts available to all, it is not without great cost. The price of freedom is one that has been paid by every man and woman who has put on a uniform and patrolled occupied territory or strapped into a cockpit and braved enemy fire or quietly prayed on the somber journey from the ship to the beach. It is a price that has been paid in the jungles of Southeast Asia and on the high seas of the Pacific, in the deserts of the Middle East, the fields of France and Italy and countless places American forces have answered freedom's call. It is a price that is written in every line upon a weary soldier's face, counted in every mother's tear and etched upon the broken heart of every speechless father whose son or daughter never came home.

"In the last two years I have seen the weary soldiers, the mothers and the fathers with all of their hearts broken after their loved ones had paid the price for our freedom. But it is a price that must be paid by some, so that all may be free. It is an important truth I learned a long time ago growing up. World War II was part of the greatest generation of Americans, those who confronted great evil with great courage, who liberated millions without claiming one ounce of foreign soil except that which was suitable to bury



Choctaw royalty, at left, are Miss Choctaw Nation Ashton Rachelle DiNardo, Jr. Miss Stephanie Tehauno, and Little Miss Juanita Gonzalez.



John Cusher's grandfather was Simeon Cusher whose name is on the wall of World War I fallen veterans.



WWII Veteran Edra Files Krute of Sand Springs, Okla., and Chief Gregory E. Pyle.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Congressman Dan Boren, Lt. Gen. Leroy Sisco and Chief Greg Pyle.

their fallen friends."

Lt. Gen. Sisco completed his impassioned speech with, "Our great heroes from any war didn't do it for glory or fame or medals, but because they had a sense of decency, a sense of purpose and an understanding that freedom is not free. "It is the same spirit that dwells inside every veteran, the spirit that defines the very essence of America that drives those serving today to stand for freedom, no matter the cost.

The freedom we have today is not the gift of academics, poets or politicians; it is the gift of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. It is they who fought for inches of divided soil, who dropped behind enemy lines outnumbered and outgunned, who took to the air and the seas not knowing if the present mission would be their last.

"The free air we breathe they have purchased. The rights we espouse they have protected. The liberty we cherish they have granted.

"To every veteran who has answered the call of duty, who has stood in harm's way to protect the American Way I offer the salute of an indebted American, a grateful Citizen and a Veteran. May you live every day you have left with pride, dignity and honor.

"You have earned it. And may the rest of us never forget it."



Dennis Allen and Marvin Ginn.



Alan Burris, Linda Burris and Neatha Smith-Quinn hold red, white and blue mums that were dropped by a World War II Airborne Demonstration Team flyover.



Harry James served in the Army during the last part of WWII and the first part of Korea. Bob Emmert served in the Air Force from 1947 through 1950.



Andrew Colbert, Army Veteran of the Korean War, with Assistant Chief Gary Batton.



Tim Amos and dad Walter Amos.



Carolyn and Robert Frazier.

Celebrating our heritage



Melinda Steve, left, of Calera and Morgan Steve of Durant dance on the lawn of the Choctaw Nation complex in Durant.

Peyton Ward, a sixth grade student at Broken Bow middle school, dances to a "war dance," a traditional Native American dance of celebration, at the Choctaw Nation complex in Durant.



"Oklahoma Choctaws, How We Came To Be," a series of classes offered to employees to preserve and revitalize the culture of the Choctaw people through arts and crafts, stories, dances, songs, food and history. Classes on various aspects of Choctaw culture were offered to employees every week throughout the month of November in observation of Native American Heritage month.

In addition to these classes, traditional Choctaw pottery classes will be offered to any member of the Choctaw Nation every other Sunday from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Bryan County Community Building at the fairgrounds in Durant. There are no pre-requisites and members can attend any or all of the lessons. The classes, presented by the Choctaw Nation through a grant from the National Parks Service, are free of charge and are being offered for up to a year, depending on attendance.

Upcoming pottery classes include:

– Durant –

Jan. 10, Jan. 24, Feb. 7 – 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Bryan County Free Fair, 1901 S. Ninth

– Poteau –

Dec. 28, Jan. 11, Jan. 25 – 5:00-9:30 p.m.
Poteau Field Office, 208 B Street

– Idabel –

Dec. 29, Jan. 12, Jan. 26 – 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Idabel Field Office, 2408 Lincoln Rd.

– Atoka –

Dec. 17, Jan. 14, Jan. 28 – 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Atoka Field Office, 1410 S. Gin Rd.

– McAlester –

One evening Choctaw pottery session will be held on Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. at the McAlester Community center, 1623 George Nigh Expressway.



Several employees welcomed the opportunity to participate in traditional classes in November. Carolyn Cross, above left, molds a serving bowl with clay. Dee Moore, above right, begins weaving a basket. Marni Billy reacts while performing a skit during a storytelling class. Shirley Barboan, below right, teaches beadworking.



Spiritual beliefs and rituals

A collection of early written references

Dear Iti Fabvssa: Could you elaborate on the spiritual beliefs and rituals, as well as the roles our ancestors played in Choctaw traditions before they became Christianized?

Response from Iti Fabvssa: Spirituality was a crucial element in the lives of our ancestors, and we thank you for bringing up this important topic. Answering your question is challenging for three reasons: First, some elements of Choctaw spiritual beliefs were and still are very personal in nature, and are not appropriately translatable into a newspaper column. Second, the spirituality of our Choctaw ancestors varied somewhat between different communities and families. Third, Choctaw interpretations of spiritual beings and events seem to have changed and developed from generation to generation. Accordingly, what follows is a collection of early written references that give snapshots of what communities and individuals believed and chose to pass on.

Nearly all sources state that early Choctaws believed in one single Superior Being, known by different names to different Choctaw people. These include "Nanapesa" (Spiritual Law-Giver), "Nanishthullo Chito" (Something highly revered), and "Hvshthvli" (probably from *hashi-hvt atahli*, meaning "the sun's established order") (Wright 1828:179).

Ancestral Choctaw people did not actually worship the sun, as some people have implied, but rather the sun was seen as a hole in the sky, through which God's eye watched the earth (Byington 1915:148). Governing matters of war, it was said that as long as the sun shone on a person, this person would prosper; when it ceased shining on that person, he would die. Some Choctaws conceived of the moon as the sun's wife, and the stars as the sun's children.

In the traditional Choctaw mode of thinking, fire is an earthly representative of the sun. Some Choctaws called it *Luak Hashtahli Itichapa* (Fire, the friend of God) (Wright 1828: 179-180). Accordingly, fire was given a great deal of respect. Certain things were not done or said around it, or burned in it. Conversely, after a successful hunt a particu-



Iti Fabvssa

lar organ from the animal was burned in the fire (c.f. Romans 1999:137), probably as a gesture of thanksgiving.

Traditionally an individual with the title of *Tishomiko* (servant chief) was responsible for arranging community dances, ceremonies, and feasts (Anonymous 1918:58). Through the year, a variety of spiritually significant dances were held. Most of them were named after important animals (c.f. Anonymous 1918:68). Many of these could be described in today's terms as a stomp dance. The biggest Choctaw celebration and most important spiritual event, the Green Corn Ceremony, was held when the corn began to ripen (Adair 1775:325; Swanton 2001:225-226). This was a time of fasting, thanksgiving, personal reflection, and stomp dancing. At this time, people forgave each other for their wrongs, extinguished the community's fires, and rekindled them. Most Choctaw communities chose to hide their ceremonies and traditional dances from European observers, both through seclusion and by transforming them into today's Choctaw Social Dances.

Traditional Choctaw cosmology includes a number of spiritual entities in addition to the Supreme Being. One of the benevolent beings is *Ohoyo Osh Chishba* (Unknown Woman), who some stories say brought corn to the Choctaws. Another group of supernatural beings is known by two different names: *Bohpulli* (Throwers) and *Kowi Anuk Asha* (Forest Dwellers). These are small human-like creatures who are responsible for teaching medicine to *Alekchi* (Choctaw doctors), who, in turn, use it to cure Choctaw people from their ailments. However, these same beings are also known for playing mischievous tricks on people. Some Choctaw individuals drew upon benevolent supernatural power to direct as *Hopaii* (prophets) to serve the people. Others used supernatural powers to make rain, often employing a boiled herb, dances and songs (Romans 1999:138-139)

In traditional Choctaw thought, the beings described above are opposed by a group of sinister spiritual entities. *Nalusa Chito* (big black thing) is roughly equivalent to the devil in Christian thought. *Oka Nahullo* (Something holy in the water), are human-like who live under the water, have light-colored skins, and sometimes capture people. *Nalusa Falaya* (something long and black) resembles a man, but has small eyes and long, pointed ears, and frightens people. *Hashuk Oka Hoiya* (grass water drop) is a glowing orb that travels at night and will lead people away if they follow it. *Ishkitini* are people who use supernatural powers to harm others and are able to take the shape of a horned owl.

In traditional Choctaw thought, a person has *shilup*, or spirit, and a *shilombish* or shadow. When a person dies, the *shilombish* leaves the body and may haunt the earth as a ghost. The *shilop* remains on earth for a few days. For its benefit, relatives burned a fire at the spot of death or in front of the deceased's house for several days after death. Eventually, the *shilup* would make a long westward journey to the *Shilup Iyakni*, or (Land of Ghosts) (Cushman 1899:363). Most *shilup* would go to a warm, sunny pleasant place that abounds in game and wild fruit, to spend eternity in happiness. The *shilup* of murders, and perhaps others, would go to a second place that is cold and sunless, either a landscape filled with briars and thorns, or a stagnant cesspool in a river.

The remains of ancestral Choctaw people were treated with a great deal of respect. It was and is still believed by many that disturbing human remains can bring a haunting by the deceased person's ghost. Seeing a ghost can foretell impending death. In Choctaw thought, they can disguise themselves as foxes or owls. Nightmares were sometimes attributed to a deceased person's ghost entering the thoughts of a sleeping person (Wright

1828:183).

Much more could be written if space allowed, but for this we refer you to the sources below and the Choctaw elders or *alekchi* with whom you may be in contact.

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Wright, Alfred

1828 *Choctaws: Religious Opinions, Traditions, Etc.* *Missionary Herald* 24:178-183, 214-216.

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

Editor's Note: Due to the volume of the response to this column our writers will prioritize the questions according to topics and space availability. We will publish as many as possible in future issues of the newspaper.

Choctaw Word Find Puzzle

b u b n m b h v a k d h
h f e T e s e m b a a o
h a b e n v c h i h i l
N i t t a k s o i b k i
H u l l o n a f a q d t
C h i t o a x a l j l t
o y i m n t n w a d l o
v e j p y b b o n c t p
a h k m p s a h w z c a
n a y i m m i i z a n h
a k a k o t i h C i l d
o k t u s h a C o a j b

Find the Choctaw words and learn the pronunciation and meaning at the same time.

Tesemba – ti.sin.ba – December
Nittak Hullo Chito – nit.tak hol.lo chi.to – Christmas (this word is placed on three lines)
Chihowa – Chi.ho.wa – God
Chitokaka – Chi.to..ka.ka – Lord
holittopa – ho..lit.to.pa – holy
ikbi – ik.bi – Make, build
na yimmi – na: yim.mi – faith
oktusha – ok.to.sha – snow
habenvchi – ha.bi.na.chi – give a present

Chabta

Words of the Month

English	Choctaw	pronunciation
Doctor	alikhchi	a.lih.chi
Eagle	ossi	ons.si
Snake	sinti	sin.ti
Potato	ahé	a.hi
Bean	tobi	tó.bi
Room	aboha	a.bó.ha

A Children's Legend

The Race

Turkey and Terrapin met in the woods one day. "I can run faster than you," boasted Turkey, "Don't know if you could win the race," replied Terrapin. "Think you could beat me?" asked Turkey. "Maybe." "Challenge you to race!" gobbled Turkey who never knew when to let well enough alone. "Where?" "Start here. Go down the road to the gate. That is a mile." "I'll be ready," said Terrapin as he started off. Terrapin gathered friends together and instructed each one to put a white feather in their tail. He stationed one every hundred yards along the mile. Everything was ready when the time arrived. "I'll wait for you at the gate!" said the boastful and confident Turkey. Turkey and Terrapin started, leaving Terrapin with his little white feather in his tail far behind. A hundred yards down the road, Turkey saw Terrapin with a white feather in his tail. Turkey ran faster. Just as he thought he was outrunning Terrapin, he would see Terrapin with a little white feather in his tail ahead of him. He ran faster. After running so hard Turkey was exhausted and fell down. "Ha! Ha!" laughed Terrapin as he got up and swished off into the woods.

Holiday gatherings held throughout Choctaw Nation



Councilman Jack Austin welcomes Choctaw Nation Judge Fred Bobb to the Antlers Thanksgiving Dinner.



Jermiah Walker and his daughter, Amiya Walker, waiting for the festivities at the Antlers Thanksgiving dinner to start.



Sue and Abraham Jones with visiting family members Clara and Donald Jones of Stonebluff spoke to Councilman Jack Austin.



Naomi LeFlore with Chief Pyle at Atoka Thanksgiving dinner.



Chief Pyle visits with Sue Crowley at the Atoka center.



Lorene Cooper and District 10 Councilman Anthony Dillard.



Margaret, 4, and Nolan, 3, are part of the Poahway family who came to Atoka to have dinner with the family.



Floyd Shields, Chief Pyle, Janice McGee and Councilman Anthony Dillard at Atoka.



Melissa Bohanon and Virginia Jefferson are pictured with Assistant Chief Batton while enjoying their evening at the Bethel center.



Jeffery Jefferson and Loyd Bond of Bethel visit with Assistant Chief Batton.



Amber and Ava Bohanon of Bethel enjoy the little one's first Thanksgiving dinner at the Bethel center.



Assistant Chief Batton congratulates Stephanie McKinney of Smithville, Linda Jefferson of Bethel, Leona Rivers of Battiest and Janis McKinney of Watson on completing CNA classes.



Assistant Chief Batton, Eunice Bohanon and Melinda Ludlow of Battiest, and District 2 Councilman Mike Amos.



Priscilla Coleman draws a door prize ticket at Broken Bow while Vickie Amos and Councilman Mike Amos wait to announce the number.



Darrick Bond and Atavia Bailey smile for the camera at the Broken Bow Thanksgiving dinner.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton, standing right, enjoys visiting with tribal members in the Broken Bow area.



Choctaw Nation Junior Miss Stephanie Tehauno passes out flyers in Broken Bow for the annual Pow Wow in Durant.



Assistant Chief Batton and Councilman James Frazier visit with Dellora Wilson Miles who still has the original 160-acre family allotment in the Wilson Community.



Ida Anderson and Maggie Anderson are enjoying the festivities at Coalgate.



Vickie Frazier welcomes Henry and Arlene Ringels to Coalgate's Thanksgiving dinner.



Wanda Justis prepares the turkey and ham to serve with the potluck goodies brought to Coalgate.



Crowder's Councilman, James Frazier, Deedia Francis and Chief Gregory E. Pyle. Deedia brought Chief Pyle some homemade fudge for the holidays.



It's all business in the kitchen as the ladies prepare the Thanksgiving meal for tribal members at Crowder.



Chief Pyle stops by to say hello to Christine Higgins and Joyce Wilcox while at Crowder.



Chief Greg Pyle greets Alan and Barbara Shipley of Calera during Durant's community Thanksgiving dinner.



At Durant, standing, are Kira Moore, Shanelka Barboan, Kerwin Moore, and seated, Shirley Barboan, Jarrod Pritchett and Stephanie Pritchett.



Councilman Ted Dosh is pictured with District 9 Little Miss Josephine Gilmore and Heaven Williams.



Carl and Betty Buchanan enjoy Durant's Thanksgiving party with their granddaughter, Savannah Wells.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton visits with Charlotte James and her son-in-law, Alan Weekley, while at Durant's dinner.



Ann and Jim Cox, Mary Jo and Truman Heron, and Sheila and Jack Arnett attend Durant's Thanksgiving dinner.



Frances Hailey, David Swink and David Swink Jr., all of Swink, attend Hugo's Thanksgiving dinner. Standing are Councilman Perry Thompson and Assistant Chief Batton.



Councilman Perry Thompson, James Hudson of Speer and Assistant Chief Batton are ready to enjoy the holiday meal at Hugo.



Elmer Crews of Hugo and his daughter, Barbara Plotner of California, are greeted by Assistant Chief Batton.



George Hargrow Jr., Erma Hargrow, Lorinda Durant, Dorothy Durant, Isabel Ramirez and Mitchell Durant are pictured with Assistant Chief Batton and Councilman Perry Thompson.



McAlester festivities were enjoyed by everyone. Pictured above are Ronnie Phipps and Councilman Bob Pate; Councilman Bob Pate and Charleen Samuels. At right, the cooks take a break - James Green, William Johnson and Windal Muse.



Assistant Chief Batton stops to talk with Lydia McClure and AnMarie Steele during Idabel's Thanksgiving dinner.



District 1 Councilman Hap Ward and Assistant Chief Batton are pictured with Virginia Franklin, Thelma Jessie and Gayle Obe at Idabel.



Enjoying fellowship at Idabel are Whitney Jefferson, Assistant Chief Batton, Bertha Jefferson and Truman Jefferson.



Anthony and Amanda Rutledge are among the first to arrive at Poteau's Thanksgiving dinner.



Deloris Cox, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, and Councilman Delton Cox with grandson Miko Cox.



Harley Shoemake is all smiles as she gets her picture taken with Chief Gregory E. Pyle at Poteau's Thanksgiving dinner.



Cyndi Houser spends time with her niece, Nevaeh Goodin, while at the Poteau Thanksgiving dinner.



At the Smithville Thanksgiving dinner, Councilman Kenny Bryant meets with Dee Tidwell, Kathleen Hudson, Robin McDell, Sue James and Roselee Senior.



Councilman Kenny Bryant speaks with Elton Ray Baker and Shirley Lowman during Smithville's holiday festivities.



Ready for a good Thanksgiving meal at Spiro are Marie Yazzae, Topsy Williams and Angela Terrell.



Allen Holden and John Casey of Spiro wanted their picture printed in the Bishinik.



Councilman Delton Cox congratulates the Hickmans on their anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Hickman will have been married 51 years in January.



Patsy Wayne Wann and Councilman Delton Cox are pictured at the Spiro Thanksgiving dinner.



Victoria Baker, Chief Pyle holding Alleyah Purvis, and Choctaw Nation Little Miss Juanita Gonzalez at Stigler.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton, Lorenzo Gonzalez and Triston Gonzalez have a good time at the Stigler Thanksgiving dinner.



Matthew Kemp is among the many who enjoyed dinner at Stigler.



Chief Pyle and James Cook of Stigler visit about Chief meeting James' brother, John Cook, at a community gathering in Colorado.



Ramona Baker celebrated her 70th birthday on November 18. She is pictured at Stigler's Thanksgiving dinner with Chief Greg Pyle and her daughters, Stephanie Wingfield, Tina Ferguson and Michelle Lowe.



Chief Pyle stops to wish Wendell and Dora Dennis a happy 53rd anniversary in October.



Assistant Chief Gary Batton at the Tushka Homma Thanksgiving dinner shares a laugh with his grandkids, Jeffrey Bell and Emily Bell, and his mother, Dolly Batton, and his aunt, Myrtle Hopper.



Councilman Jack Austin congratulates Vernon McCoy on winning the door prize at the Tushka Homma Thanksgiving dinner.



That turkey looks wonderful! Wilburton folks had a great Thanksgiving meal.



Thanksgiving at Wilburton - far left, Chief Pyle and Kyle Francis; at left, Jeremy Scott sings for the crowd; and below, Chief Pyle is pictured with Linda and Alan Burris.



At left, Councilman Joe Coley and Al Smith catch up on things at Wilburton. Above, 1-week-old Shyann Tallant is one of the newest members at Wright City.



Williston and Delia Wesley are a familiar site at Wright City events.



Clayton Anna and Councilman Jack Austin at Wright City.



Jr. Miss Choctaw Nation Stephanie Tehauno and Councilman Jack Austin.

Children receive winter gifts



Chahta Villa Pre-School, Bethel



Early Childhood Center, Bennington

Children from Choctaw Nation's Bennington Early Childhood Center and Chahta Villa Pre-School in Bethel have received beautiful, knitted winter caps from Ms. Elizabeth Adams of Amherst, Maine. Adams, together with her mother, began knitting caps for a program that donates the caps to young children. After her mother's death, Adams continued to knit caps to honor her mother's dedication to helping children. Unable to determine if the program was still in existence this year, Adams mailed the caps directly to the Head Start program for distribution.

Twenty-seven children received a colorful, beautifully knitted winter cap. Adams received a heartfelt thank you letter and photos of some of the children who benefited from her generosity this year. The children asked us to say, "Thank you, Ms Elizabeth!!!"



Smokey Bear visits Bethel

Thank you Choctaw Nation Forestry Department for allowing Smokey Bear a day off work to come and visit Chahta Villa Interlocal Preschool in Bethel.

Raptor project an aerial extravaganza at Hartshorne schools

Jonathan Wood, master falconer and wildlife rehabilitator, presented the Raptor Project Tour to an enthusiastic group of students at Hartshorne Public Schools.

Wood's entourage included raptors from every habitat on the planet including the Arctic, desert, rainforest, wetlands, prairie, woodlands, and tundra.

Hartshorne students were presented with an up-close and personal exhibition of raptors that ranged in size from small falcons and owls to majestic eagles with 7- and 8-foot wingspans.



Pictured are Andie Picone, Jones Academy-Hartshorne student, and Jonathan Wood, master falconer and wildlife rehabilitator, demonstrating how to "feed fish" to a bald eagle.

The students were taken on a "raptor safari" that allowed them a learning experience that can only be found in the wilderness.

A portion of the money from the Choctaw Nation Stars Program allocated for Hartshorne student services and instruction funded the Raptor Project. The Stars Program encourages student achievement for all students.



Students enjoy holiday

Jones Academy hosted its annual Thanksgiving dinner on November 19. Students, staff and approximately 75 visitors were treated to a steak and shrimp supper.

Friends of the Academy, volunteers and families of the students and staff were invited to celebrate the blessings and offer thanks. Overall, it was a wonderful evening of great food, fun and fellowship.

Pictured are, top left, Richard Pedro and Saul Martinez enjoying their meal; bottom left, Sarah Harrison and Rayvonna Campillo; and top right, Micah Tiger ready to much down.



Safety group visits Jones Academy

Jones Academy had two special guests on campus on September 29. "Smokey the Bear" and "Sparky the Dog" visited with the elementary students about fire safety and emergency procedures.

The presentation was sponsored by the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant firefighters. The safety group performed a puppet skit and the firemen demonstrated the stop, drop, and roll technique. The students also learned when and how to call 911.



COME JOIN US THIS SPRING!



Enroll Now @ Jones Academy!

We are accepting applications for the 2010 Spring 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 (1st-12th)
- 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 or write to:

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



Wheelock Heritage Day



Viola Durant McCurtain

The campus of Wheelock Academy was busy again as several "girls" returned to visit their old school near Millerton. Wheelock Heritage Day, sponsored by the McCurtain County Historical Society, was held November 7, with alumni Betty Walker, Florence Spalding, Ennie Tonihka Cusher, Ada Louise Tushka Wilson, Delores Dye, Rena Winship Goings, Dorothy Parker Skeen, Ima Jean Ishcomer Collingsworth, Juanita Ishcomer Wilmouth, Mary Edna Jacob Watson, Eleanor Cooper Caldwell, Faye Austin Reining, Maxine Wilson McCrary, Aliene Swinke Moore and Viola Durant McCurtain attending.

Each were presented with an award of recognition. Mrs. McCurtain, 89, a basket-weaver since her days at Wheelock, brought some of her handiwork to show. Holding a double-weave basket, Mrs. McCurtain, told how she learned to make them at Wheelock. She also served as a surrogate mother to one of the twins who were raised at the residential school.

Ivy League & Friends

Continued from Page 1

only Harvard, but also Yale, Dartmouth, Columbia, Penn, Johns Hopkins, Cal/Berkeley and Andover-Phillips Academy."

"Recruiters commented positively on the turnout as well as the quality of students who arrived prepared with portfolios and excellent questions," Chief Pyle says.

"I was heartened to hear recruiters encourage CNO scholars and parents who might otherwise feel the nation's top colleges are beyond their reach academically or economically," said the evening's keynote speaker, Assistant Chief Gary Batton. "At Ivy League and Friends you could almost see the confidence build in students and parents faces as they heard recruiters tell them this dream was possible and within their reach."

The majority of American colleges want diversity and Native Americans bring an important perspective to the college campus according to Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP) Director, Jo McDaniel.

"Today many of the nation's best colleges have special Native American recruitment and retention programs – and many more are adding them," she says. "At Ivy League and Friends, every one of the representatives was their school's Native American recruiter. Major colleges want Native Americans. Support for these programs is definitely growing."

What recruiters said

Planning for this year's recruiting occasion began in late summer according to SAP director, McDaniel. "We were impressed and encouraged at the turnout in 2008 when we hosted Harvard," she says. "We wanted this year's event to be even better. We hoped the increased planning effort and earlier notice and publicity would pay off with a larger turnout among students, parents and recruiting schools." Apparently it did. The attention to detail – even in seemingly little things – was not lost on the Ivy and Friends recruiters.

Recruiter compliments ran the gamut from small details to overall tribal commitment. They praised CNO and SAP for the time they were given to speak before the entire audience; the way their booths were set up and that Choctaw Youth Advisory Board (YAB) students were assigned to help them in the booths. They had high praise for Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation's commitment to the Scholarship Advisement Program.

"It's obvious the program has been given tribal support" said one recruiter.

Recruiters repeatedly stated the CNO's higher education efforts lead among all Native American nations. They voiced hope that this initiative put forth by the CNO will eventually bleed over to other nations.

"At this point most other nations don't have anything like this," according to one recruiter.



Sarah Motes



The Ezell Family



The Morleys

Three families' reactions to Ivy & Friends

The Motes Family

Sylvia and Gary Motes of Houston Texas attended Ivy League & Friends with their daughter, Sarah and son, Zachery. Both attend the same high school in Houston where Sarah is a senior and Zack a junior. Last summer Sarah attended College Horizons – a highly recommended program by SAP – and served as a spokeswoman for the group at Ivy League & Friends. (Now in its 13th year College Horizons is a pre-college program for Native American high school students open to current sophomores and juniors. Each summer students work with expert college counselors teamed up with college admissions officers in a five-day "crash course.")

"For Sarah to be able to come back and tell the community about College Horizons – and to be able to share time with the recruiters – was good for her," says Mom, Sylvia. "Many people, including my husband, were under the impression that they can't afford top schools for our kids – or that only class valedictorians or top scorers can get in. But that's not true. That's one of the things we learned at Ivy League and Friends and it's a vital message for parents. More people need to hear that."

"My children are already enrolled in SAP," she says. "After the event, my husband

is going to enroll, too. I'd tell other CNO families not to miss this opportunity.

The simple and first thing it does is give children and the parents the confidence that they can do it. They can be more than they think and they can exceed their expectations."

The Ezell Family

Theresa and Greg Ezell of Collinsville, Texas had three equally important reasons to attend Ivy League & Friends: their triplets – Taylor, Tatum and Grayson. All three are high-achieving sophomores in high school and all are enrolled in SAP. "We heard about the event in a variety of ways: from a letter, from SAP's online newsletter, and then we also saw something about it on TV," says the triplet's Mom, Theresa.

"We had reservations at first because my kids felt they weren't old enough. They didn't see themselves as applying for college. But we decided we were ready for this and we were very surprised and encouraged. We were impressed to have the opportunity to meet with schools of that caliber – and dinner was fabulous.

"I'd absolutely recommend this event to other CNO students. Taylor and Grayson are interested in Harvard because an aunt and uncle live in Boston. Tatum is interested in pre-med and she wanted to visit the Columbia booth."

"The Ezzells' timing for their triplets is actually perfect," according to SAP Director, Jo McDaniel. "The sophomore year is the ideal time to join SAP and begin attending our recruiting events. We're glad to have them in our program."

The Morley Family

Terri Morley is a single mom with three college-age

kids: twins Cassi and Christina and older son Brandon. Terri and Cassi drove 13 hours non-stop from their home in St. Paul, Minnesota to attend Ivy League and Friends. Cassi is a high school senior in St. Paul with an interest in medicine – or maybe international relations.

"It went well for Cassi," says her mom. "She got to talk to a lot of people she wouldn't normally spend time with. "Cassi did the Native Fly-in from Dartmouth last summer. It's a program I learned about from the SAP.

"I'm not sure what I'd know if it wasn't for SAP. They told me to make sure the girls checked the Native American box when they take their ACT/SAT tests. They said many of the nation's best schools end their years with a lot of unused Native American funding. In another conversation I learned about the Dartmouth Native American fly-in and SAP sent me the web-link. They also made me aware of how important it was for my girls to do Native American Volunteer work. I would never have known that. So, I'm really high on SAP. My advice to CNO students and parents: You need to go talk to these people. I'd start younger and have the younger kids groom themselves."

"I'm an SAP member," says Cassi Morley. "CNO students should definitely join. You'll find scholarships you might not otherwise know about. I've finished my common applications. I'm also applying to Dartmouth, Yale, Harvard, Johns Hopkins and some Midwestern state schools. I visited all the schools I wanted to at Ivy League and Friends."

"I'd tell other CNO kids even if they don't think they're Ivy material, they should try. I never thought about applying to Ivy League schools until a couple of years ago. But they're not looking for straight A's or 4-points. They say that would give them a really boring student body. They're looking for other types of people as well – even if they don't have perfect grades and transcripts. I have a lot more appreciation of my abilities after this."

Post Event Survey Proves Ivy League & Friends Success This year's recruiting event included a follow-up survey which Chief Pyle says only underscores Ivy League & Friends overall success.

"The survey gives us plenty of valuable input, including many comments we can build on for future events. But five findings from the survey stick out most in my mind," says Chief Pyle.

- More than 60 percent of our respondents traveled over 100 miles to attend Ivy League and Friends.
- 89 percent said the event was very or somewhat helpful to CNO students.
- 87 percent are very likely to return to future recruiting events.
- 94 percent are very to extremely likely to recommend Ivy League and Friends to other CNO students.



OSU honors Five Civilized Tribes' color guards

Choctaw Nation Color Guard and the four other civilized tribes were honored at the October 31 OSU-Texas game. During half-time, the five civilized tribes presented their flags while the OSU band played our state song, "Oklahoma." Choctaw Nation Color Guard escorted Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry and his wife, Cindy, and Madeleine and T. Boone Pickens off the field at the end of the half-time show. Choctaw Nation Color Guard attending the tribute were Terry Loman, Melvin Tom, Herbert Jessie and Bob Ludlow.

The half-time show is part of an ongoing tribute to the American Armed Forces. The tribute was sponsored by Madeleine Boone's philanthropic foundation "Saving America's Mustangs" and focused on a celebration of our American Heritage while honoring American's veterans and recognizing the current plight of wild horses.

CVA Skullyville Post 4501 float wins first place in Poteau

The float built by the members of Choctaw Veterans Association Skullyville Post #4501 of Spiro won first place for floats in the second annual Veterans Day Parade held in Poteau on November 14. The theme of the parade was "Freedom is not free."

Spiro's float carried crosses with the names of the 10 major wars or skirmishes in which Americans have fought. On each cross was the number of American service men and women who were killed in action in each conflict.

One judge commented that he thought the float represented the theme of the parade "just perfectly" and he gave the float the highest marks he could. He thought it was very well done.

The Choctaw Veterans Association Skullyville Post #4501 would like to thank D&D Trailer of Shady Point and Beverly Fisher of Panama for their help and assistance in building and decorating the float.



"We couldn't have done it without them," stated Tom Swafford, Chairman of the CVA #4501 float committee.

Other committee members and workers on the float are Jim Fry, John Casey, Milton Stephens, Malcolm Stephens, J.B. Adams, Paul Perry and Harold Perry.



The Choctaw Veterans Association Skullyville Post 4501 float won first place in the LeFlore County Veterans Parade.



The Choctaw Nation STAR program delivered checks to every school in the Choctaw Nation. Pictured above with PreK through fourth grade students at Watson are STAR staffperson Seth Fairchild, Councilman Kenny Bryant, Superintendent Cindi Hernandez and teacher Helen Moore. At left, Councilperson Charlotte Jackson and Seth Fairchild present a check to Arkoma High School Principal Cyal Walden.

Eligibility requirements for sanitation facilities construction

The Choctaw Nation Office of Environmental Health (OEH) program is presently engaged in a program to provide sanitation facilities, which include water and wastewater facilities. Funding for this program is provided through the U.S. Indian Health Service and therefore their qualification guidelines are utilized. These funds are to be used for items such as: water wells, septic tanks, drainfields, community water, or community sewer connections

Applicants should be prepared to allow time for application processing, site evaluation, funding approval and scheduling of services. Incomplete applications will not be considered for services and will be returned to the applicant. All applications made to this office are considered emergencies and will be handled in the order of receipt. Below are the United States Indian Health Service (IHS) guidelines that must be implemented:

Eligibility Requirements are as follows:

The home being served must be the primary residence and located within the Choctaw Nation boundaries (10 1/2 counties).

A permanent resident of the home must possess a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) from a federally recognized Native American Tribe.

Applicant must provide a copy of the warranty deed or quit claim deed for proof of ownership. This includes lease property. Abstracts are not acceptable.

If the property to be served is lease property (only FAMILY leases will be considered) the land owner must possess and provide a copy of their CDIB card. In addition to this, a notarized lease (five year minimum) must be filed at the courthouse and a copy provided with this application.

If the home is financed please send copy of signed finance or mortgage papers.

The Choctaw Nation Environmental Health Program cannot serve a Mutual Help (Indian) Home if payments are currently being made on the home to the Choctaw Nation Housing Authority.

If the home is a mobile home, it must be equipped with a working thermostatically controlled heating system, skirted, tie downs secured, wheels removed and ball of trailer hitch removed before services can be installed. The mobile home must be greater than 40 ft. in length and not marketed or sold as a travel trailer.

Older homes, which have sub-standard water and/or sewer system, may be eligible for services.

Applicants are responsible for the regular maintenance and care of the facilities installed at the site. This program has a one year warranty on all work completed. Negligence on the homeowner's part voids all warranties and thereby the Choctaw Nation OEH is not required to repair services at the site. Any problem past the one year warranty is the sole responsibility of the participant.

In the event the site requires a drainfield (lateral lines), the construction and installation process requires the soil to be left mounded on the lines. These mounds must be allowed to settle naturally and can not be mechanically leveled. The mounds must not be driven on by any machinery for any reason. Mechanically leveling or driving on the drainfield may result in failure of the system thereby voiding the warranty.

This office is allowed to drill one well per site. If the well produces two gallons of water per minute or more a pumping system will be installed. Should the well produce less than two gallons per minute, it will be plugged and abandoned. This will result in the site being dropped from this program. Filter systems are not supplied by this office.

If rural water is available, this program may run a waterline up to 1/4 mile to participants home.

All pipes going into and out of the home must be left stubbed 24 inches from the house. On a new construction use only 1" PVC stub out fitting (No Copper Stub Outs).

All participant homes being considered for services must have an assessed value of at least \$2,000.00.

Federal guidelines restrict this office from reimbursing applicants for services installed by the home owner or their contractor.

For questions or more information, call 580/326-9673 or 800-522-6170.



Levi Orphan



Norma Price



Tewanna Edwards

Five Choctaw elders honored by AARP

Leo Smallwood, Norma Price, Tewanna Edwards, Levi Orphan and Evangeline Wilson were among 50 American Indian Elder Honorees recognized from more than 30 tribes at the event which featured the Oklahoma Fancy Dancers and was attended by several hundred people.

Among the honorees were authors, poets, educators, chiefs and governors, elders who have kept their cultures alive by saving traditional dance and language, those who have fought for federal recognition of their tribes and nations and veterans -- including the last surviving Native American from the Bataan Death March.

AARP National President-Elect Lee Hammond was on hand to deliver the keynote address and help present medallions along with AARP Oklahoma Volunteer State President Marjorie Lyons and State Director Nancy Coffey. Hammond praised the honorees and noted AARP's commitment to reach diverse populations. He also reminded the audience of AARP Founder Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus' motto, "to serve and not be served."

"It was a beautiful night to salute these American Indian Elders," said Lyons. "AARP Oklahoma has pledged to continue working with Oklahoma Indians to understand their unique needs and find ways that the association can help them age with dignity."

Tewanna Edwards, Chickasaw/Choctaw and great-niece of Choctaw Code Talker Otis Leader, has been an advocate for American Indian families as a Chickasaw Nation Peacemaker within the Chickasaw Nation District Courts, Advisory Board Chairperson of the Chickasaw Nation Boys & Girls Club of Chickasha, Member of the National Indian Education Association, Substance Abuse Counselor, Sunday School Teacher, City Manager, Tribal Princess Pageant judge, Gambling Addiction Counselor, published author, Missionary, and



Leo Smallwood



Evangeline Wilson

Public School Indian Education Volunteer. She was instrumental in the United States decision to honor Choctaw and Choctaw-Chickasaw Code Talkers in World War I.

Levi Orphan, Chickasaw/Choctaw, spent over 37 years in the military and 27 years as a civil servant at Tinker Air Force Base. After retiring, Levi began an incredible new journey at age 58 when he became a wildland firefighter with the Chickasaw Agency Fire Management Team. Although he had no previous firefighting experience, he rose to the highest positions possible in the agency fighting numerous fires throughout the United States in the decade he spent with the Chickasaw team. He assisted in both the Hurricane Katrina disaster and Columbia Space Shuttle search and recovery efforts.

Norma Price, Choctaw, selected as 2009 Outstanding Choctaw Female Elder for Oklahoma, was a teacher and coach before becoming a case-worker for Department of Health. Her community involvement includes 27 years of service to Durant Chapter of Salvation Army, the United Way Board

of Directors in Bryan County; a Founding Board member of Crisis Control Center for domestic abuse victims; organized the Bryan County Community Services Program as resources referral center and is currently serving as a volunteer for the AARP tax-aide program.

Leo Smallwood, Choctaw, named 2009 Outstanding Choctaw Male Elder for Oklahoma, was a teacher basketball coach and principal for 38 years. Mr. Smallwood was selected by the Oklahoma Retired Educators' Association as the VIM in 2001 (Very Important Member) and was inducted in the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame in July 2009. All six children, their spouses and 12 grandchildren are teachers.

Evangeline Wilson, Choctaw, first President of the Choctaw Code Talkers Association, taught at Shiprock, New Mexico, on the Navajo Reservation and Chilocco Indian School. She was a guidance counselor and case worker at Concho Indian School and is very active in volunteer work.

To read the full list of honorees, visit: www.aarp.org/ok

Youth programs to visit schools in Southeast Oklahoma

Summer Youth applications due by April 15, 2010

The Choctaw Nation Summer Youth Work Program and the Higher Education programs will be visiting schools in Southeastern Oklahoma through April 15, 2010. Applications may be picked up at any time and turned in by April 15, 2010, to the WIA Office.

Achille	March 24	9:15 a.m.
Antlers	January 27	10:00 a.m.
Atoka	January 22	1:00 p.m.
Battiest	February 12	10:00 a.m.
Bennington	February 10	9:15 a.m.
Bokoshe	January 12	11:00 a.m.
Boswell	January 19	9:00 a.m.
Broken Bow	January 19	TBA
Buffalo Valley	January 15	10:00 a.m.
Caddo	February 3	8:30 a.m.
Calera	February 3	10:05 a.m.
Cameron	January 14	10:00 a.m.
Canadian	February 17	8:30 a.m.
Clayton	January 20	10:00 a.m.
CN Interlocal	February 2	10:00 a.m.

Coalgate	January 15	12:35 a.m.
Colbert	February 9	10:00 a.m.
Crowder	February 17	10:00 a.m.
Durant High	February 5	9:30 a.m.
Durant Middle	February 25	11:30 a.m.
Eagletown	January 25	1:00 p.m.
Fort Towson	January 21	1:00 p.m.
Haileyville	February 24	8:30 a.m.
Hartshorne	February 24	9:15 a.m.
Haworth	January 18	TBA
Heavener	January 20	1:00 p.m.
Howe	January 20	11:00 a.m.
Hugo Alternative	January 21	10:00 a.m.
Hugo High	January 21	9:00 a.m.
Idabel	January 25	11:20 a.m.
Indianola	February 17	9:15 a.m.
Keota	January 13	1:30 p.m.
Kinta	January 7	9:00 a.m.
Kiowa	February 10	9:30 a.m.
Leflore	January 13	9:00 a.m.
McAlester	February 17	10:45 a.m.
McCurtain	February 3	8:10 a.m.
Moyers	January 27	9:00 a.m.
Panama High	January 12	9:30 a.m.
Panama Jr. High	January 12	9:00 a.m.

Pocola	January 27	11:00 a.m.
Pittsburg	February 10	10:00 a.m.
Poteau	January 8	1:00 p.m.
Quinton	February 24	11:00 a.m.
Rattan	TBA	TBA
Red Oak	January 19	8:20 a.m.
Rock Creek	February 5	1:30 p.m.
Savanna	February 3	10:00 a.m.
Silo	February 3	10:00 a.m.
Smithville	February 12	8:30 a.m.
Soper	January 19	10:15 a.m.
Spiro	January 26	1:00 p.m.
Stigler	February 3	10:00 a.m.
Stringtown	January 22	2:00 p.m.
Talihina	January 14	10:00 a.m.
Tushka	January 22	11:00 a.m.
Valliant	January 27	1:00 p.m.
Vision Academy	February 8	11:30 a.m.
Whitesboro	January 6	9:15 a.m.
Wilburton High	January 27	11:00 a.m.
Wilburton Jr. High	January 27	10:00 a.m.
Wister	January 15	2:00 p.m.

Will have a representative at the Broken Bow Investment center every Mon. & Wed., 2-4:30 p.m., to assist with filling out applications.

Choctaw Nation Distance Learning Technology GED Classes

Beginning January 4, 2010

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Centers in Bethel, Smithville and Wright City

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Choctaw Nation Community Centers in Atoka, Coalgate and Talihina



Martha Childs gets ready to conduct Adult Education Classes over One-Net Distance Learning. Monitors have been set up in Choctaw Nation Community Centers in Atoka, Bethel, Coalgate, Smithville, Talihina and Wright City so students in these rural areas will have an opportunity to take the classes and earn a GED.

Distance Learning GED classes are now available at the above locations to students in the Choctaw Nation. An experienced GED teacher will instruct you, using the One-Net Distance Learning Technology. Distance Learning allows students and teacher to see and hear each other on large monitors. You will be able to interact with the teacher as she helps you prepare to take the GED test. Books, supplies and testing fees are provided. The class will meet 3 days each week for approximately 9 weeks. A CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) is required. For more information please contact Neal Hawkins or Kathy Springfield, Choctaw Nation Adult Education, 800-522-6170 or 580-924-8280, ext. 2319 or 2122.



Author S.D. Brook visits OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance

S.D. Brook, a native of Oklahoma and a member of the Choctaw Nation, recently published his first book, "A Cowboy in Time." The story begins in 21st century Oklahoma City when Samuel Benjamin, a U.S. Deputy Marshal, somehow finds himself, while chasing an outlaw. Norris Samuels, Choctaw Language instructor at the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, helped with translations in "A Cowboy in Time" from English to Choctaw. Brook acknowledges Mr. Samuels for his help in the book.

Brook visited the OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance to attend the Phase II Choctaw language class graduation and present Norris Samuels with a signed copy of his book. Richard Adams of the Choctaw Nation Community Language Department was on hand for the presentation. Brook also was available for visiting and a book-signing after the graduation.

Brook was born and raised in Oklahoma, with most of his early years spent in McAlester and Savanna. He earned a bachelor's degree from Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, and a master's of education from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. Professionally, he is a math and science teacher, but also has an enthusiastic interest in military and United States history. He is retired from the armed services following with 20 years of combined services in the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Coast Guard. Brook currently resides in Greenville, North Carolina, with Rachel, his wife, and teaches at a local middle school.

OBITUARIES

Howard Ray Forbit

Howard Ray Forbit, 43, of Broken Bow passed away Saturday, November 7, 2009. He was born December 28, 1965, in Talihina, the son of Sinaklin and Hazel Fay (James) Forbit.

Howard was an accomplished, talented musician playing guitar, bass guitar, piano, drums, among other instruments. He enjoyed spending time with his nieces and nephews, playing video games, teaching them the value of music and how to play guitar. He loved to fish and spent many hours playing chess.

He was preceded in death by his mother Hazel Forbit, step-mother Wilma Joann Forbit, grandparents Rev. Isaac James and Alice James and uncle Mauel James.

Howard is survived by his father Sinaklin Forbit, Broken Bow; six nephews, Christopher Forbit, Laramie Bark, Jordan Forbit, Darren Bark, Jaryn Forbit and Dominick Martinez; four nieces, Lilly Kastle, Emily Forbit, Rebekkah Reimer and Baby Forbit on the way; two brothers, Charles Forbit and wife Donna, Richland Hills, Tex., and James Forbit and wife Alicia, Dallas, Tex.; three sisters, Audra Forbit, The Colony, Tex., Deanna Kastle, Broken Bow and Kristi Martinez and husband Tomas, Broken Bow; three aunts, two uncles and a host of friends.



Delbert Deroy 'Dale' Logan

Delbert Deroy "Dale" Logan, 54, of McAlester, died Friday, November 13, 2009, in McAlester.

He was born December 28, 1954, in Wilburton, to Charlie Lee and Inita (Harvey) Logan. He enjoyed working as a plumber.

He enjoyed going to the lake with family. He was a member of the McAlester Indian Baptist Church and a member of Choctaw Nation. He married Evelyn Moritomor.

Survivors include his father, Charlie Lee Logan; his mother, Inita Logan; a son, Harold Logan, of McAlester; daughters, Inita Murray and husband, Dean, of Michigan, Amanda Madsen and husband, Richard, Barling, Ark., and Dale Lynn Logan and fiancé, Josh Leadford, of McAlester.

Also, grandchildren, David Mullet, Jessica Mullet, Destiney Murray, James Murray, Hunter Logan, Hanna Logan, Devon Madsen, Quinton Madsen, Dominic Nabors and Drake Nabors; brothers, Junior Logan, Mike Logan and Charlie Logan; sisters, Dorothy Logan, Janet Logan, Cindy Logan and Lorianne Logan; cousin, Bob Pate, and numerous other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Olie Logan, and wife, Evelyn Logan.



Jamie Sue Jenkot Williams

On Tuesday, November 3, 2009, the joy in the world was diminished as Jamie Sue Jenkot Williams passed from this world to the next at the age of 23 years. Jamie left us unexpectedly in Madill in the afternoon.

Jamie loved her job as a truck checker at Oklahoma Steel and Wire, where she was lucky enough to work with her husband, Hank Williams. Jamie and Hank married on November 24, 2007. Those who knew Jamie knew how much she loved her music, her cell phone and her computer. But most important to Jamie was her family and many, many friends. She was always the life of any situation. Jamie had a unique way of making everyone she met her best friend.

Jamie Sue is survived by her husband Hank Williams of Madill; her parents Hank and January Jenkot of Durant; her sister and brother-in-law Meggan and Caleb Taylor, niece and nephew McCayla and Cason, all of Durant; grandfather James E. Ferguson, Sr. of Hugo; grandmother Grace Jenkot of LaGrange, Ind.; in-laws: parents Emma and Nazario Martinez and Cruz, Bryan and Cheryl Williams, all of Madill; sister-in-law Megan Rose Williams of Madill; grandparents Eli and Linda Posey and the late George W. Burroughs, Jr., Cecilia and Bryan R. Williams, all of Madill, and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who will miss her.



Wilford F. 'Wil' Lacy

Wilford F. "Wil" Lacy, 91, of Camp Verde, Ariz., passed away July 29, 2009. He was born in Douglas, Ariz., to Jess and Maggie (Teague) Lacy.

Mr. Lacy lived his entire life in Arizona.

His formal education only went to the third grade and at a very young age he began working as a cowboy and ranch hand.

He did his cowboying around the Verde Valley, mostly working for Jim and Hank Wingfield. He met and married Esther Jean (Strange) Lacy in Camp Verde, Ariz. They were married in the old salt mine office.

During the 1940s, he worked on the Watters Cattle Ranch in Rimrock (where Lake Montezuma is today) under Port Parker.

He also worked as a heavy equipment operator all over Arizona. He owned and operated the C.V. Trash and Garbage Service for a while.

Mr. Lacy liked hunting, fishing, gardening, keeping bees, but raising and working with cattle and horses always remained his favorite activity.

Mr. Lacy will be remembered by his family as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years and two sons, Wilford Stephen and Craig Wesley Lacy.

He is survived by a very large and extended family: son Justen Kent Lacy of Wickiup, Ariz.; daughters Anna Jean Weems of Camp Verde, Ariz., Lou Ella Lawrence (Colon) of Assumption, Ill., Tari Fay Kirby of Grand Junction, Colo.; brothers, Harvey Lacy and wife Marie of Temple, Ariz. and Lawrence Lacy and wife Carolyn of Rapid City, S.D.; sisters Goldie Bianconi and husband Bill, Ruth Jensen and husband Melvin and Bessie Thomas and husband Dick of Camp Verde, Ariz.; 21 grandchildren, 52 great-grandchildren and 19 great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Lacy was laid to rest in the Middle Verde Cemetery in Camp Verde, Ariz., next to his wife and two sons.

Elizabeth 'Betty' Lorraine McCurtain Ellis

A retired teacher from the Osborn School District, Betty Ellis passed away October 31 at age 85. Betty was of Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee and Creek heritage. Her maternal great grandfather was the Cherokee trail-blazer and translator, Jesse Chisholm. Her paternal great grandfather, Green McCurtain was the last elected chief of the Choctaw Nation.

Betty was a direct descendant of the prominent McCartan family in Ireland and Daniel McCurtain, her great-great-great-great-grandfather, who arrived from Ulster and County Down, Ireland in about 1753 and fought in the Revolutionary War. Daniel married a full-blood Choctaw woman that began an ancestral history that included, the "Trail of Tears" and a distinguished lineage of Choctaw Chiefs and dignitaries.

During World War II, Betty first worked with Consolidated Aircraft as a riveter in the production of B-24 aircraft and eventually enlisted in the Navy, where she was identified as one of the first Native American women in that service.

At the conclusion of the war, she attended Texas State College for Women and later Texas Christian University where she earned a master's degree in Physical Education. She began her teaching career at Irma Marsh Junior High in Fort Worth, Texas, and worked in education until retiring from Osborn School District with 43 years longevity.

She was fierce in her loyalty to her family, always an advocate for the underdog or downtrodden soul. She gleaned great pleasure in each child that she taught, each grandchild she held and each stray animal she took in.

She was familiar with life's losses and struggles, but was tenacious and optimistic in her acceptance of life, seeking always to find the wonder and hilarity in it. She touched and enhanced thousands of young lives, lending her unique spirit to others.

She was an unforgettable character, with sometimes irreverent and disarming humor. Ultimately, she embraced her life with heart and soul, lived it well with exceptional fortitude, persistence and steadfast love. Betty died the same way, with enduring love and the contentment that comes from a life well lived.

Betty was born to Greenwood Mitchell and Julia Ward McCurtain in Tishomingo on June 11, 1924. She was the devoted wife of James Ellis; loving mother of John Ellis, Betty Jean Woodrow (deceased), Jesse Marcos and Jim Ellis; and beloved sister of Greenwood McCurtain (deceased), Ward McCurtain, Wilma Miller, and Julian Mitchell McCurtain (deceased). She was grandmother to 12, great-grandmother to 13, great-great-grandmother to three and a loyal friend to countless others.



Maggie Oma Sanner Taylor

Maggie Oma Sanner Taylor, 104, of Duncan, passed away Thursday, October 22, 2009, at the Wilkins Nursing Center with her son by her side.

She was born September 7, 1905, in Indian Territory to Louis Authur and Ora Bell Blackberby Sanner. She was the oldest of nine children with all brothers and sisters preceded her in death. Oma and Joe Oliver Taylor were married September 10, 1922, near Harrisburg and he preceded her in death in 1994.

Oma was a member of the Choctaw Tribe and one of the last original enrollees. Oma lived in her home until August of this year when her physician, Dr. Edwards, recommended that due to frequent falls she needed to have nursing home care.

She was also preceded in death by a daughter Jo Williams, a son Howard Taylor and his wife Leola, and granddaughter Danese Coody and a great-granddaughter Kayla Williams.

Survivors include one son, Harold Taylor and his wife Zelpha of Comanche, 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.



William Hayes Wilson

William Hayes Wilson, 70, passed away peacefully at his home Tuesday, October 20, 2009.

William was born October 28, 1938, in Durant. He was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and the Arlington Gem & Mineral Club.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 47 years, Bobbi; son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Cindy Wilson; daughter and son-in-law, Michele and Wayne Young; son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Angela Wilson; granddaughters, Nichole and Britney; and numerous family and friends.



Lucy Townsend Stephens

Lucy Townsend Stephens, 76, passed away October 13, 2009, at Bellvue Nursing Center in Oklahoma City. She was born January 1, 1933, in Valliant to Clark and Ethel Townsend. She was proud of her Choctaw Indian heritage.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, one sister and three brothers.

She married Edsel E. Stephens and was retired from Hartford Insurance. She is survived by one daughter, Sandra Taylor and husband Lewis; two granddaughters, Ashlee Benazzouz and husband Reta and Brooke Taylor; four great-grandchildren; five sisters, Mary Daniels of Idabel, Jane Whitten and husband Bobby of Idabel, Sarah Dunaway of Spencer, Juanita Townsend of Oklahoma City, Pat Privott and husband Norman of McCloud; two brothers, Bill Townsend and wife Sue of Plano, Texas, Sam Townsend and wife Carol of Clay Center, Neb.; sisters-in-law Dorothy Thompson, Joan Davis and husband Ed; numerous other relatives and friends.

Garland Eldon Martin Jr.

Garland Eldon Martin Jr. was born October 24, 1967, in San Joaquin, Calif., to Shirley Reichle and Garland Eldon Martin Sr. He passed from this life Thursday, October 29, 2009, in Cooper, Texas at the age of 42. He was an electrician.

He is survived by his mother Shirley; brothers, John Davis and Billy J. Martin, sisters Katherine Mendoza, Rachell Martin, Minnie Martin, and Stormie Martin, eight nieces, nine nephews and one great-niece.

Garland was laid to rest next to his father at the Atlee Cemetery in Ringling.



Virginia Mae Meely

Virginia Mae Meely of Sulphur passed away on November 21, 2009, in Ardmore. She was born September 8, 1924, to Flamus and Ona Jocoway Williamson.

She grew up in the Purcell area, where she attended various schools. She had lived in the Sulphur area since 1964. She was a homemaker and a member of the First Baptist Church.

Virginia married Charley Meely, who preceded her in death in 1980. She was also preceded in death by her parents; daughter Anita Platt; sons Gordon, Robert and Bobby; brothers Edmund, Abel and James; sister Towana; and grandchildren Russell and Nicky Colungo.

She is survived by her children, Tawana Colungo and husband Pedro of Sulphur, Ramona Macias and husband Robert of St. Charles, Mo., Jewell Meely of Oklahoma City, Charles Meely of Sulphur, David Byars and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Cheryl Ann Dags Sublett

Cheryl Ann Dags Sublett, 44, died Wednesday, May 27, 2009, at Houston, Texas. She was born November 28, 1964, at Irving, Texas, to Warren and Mary Louise Parker Dags.

She attended Nimitz High School in Irving, and was a customer service manager and account executive. She was of the Baptist faith.

Survivors include two sons, Donald Austin Sublett and Justin Rae Sublett, both of Houston; father Warren Dags; mother Mary Dags; brother Preston Dags; sister Robin Powell; niece Montanna Wilson; nephew Dakota Wilson; three aunts, Linda Alkire, Charlene Johnson and Joann Gallup; uncle John D. Dags; and numerous cousins.



Carl W. Tannehill

Carl William Tannehill, 87, of McAlester, died Sunday, October 11, 2009, at Clarahouse in Tulsa.

Burial was at Tannehill Cemetery with military honors by Harrison-Powers Post #79 American Legion and Masonic services by Masonic Blue Lodges.

Born November 28, 1921, in North McAlester, to Edgar Preston and Carrie Marie Self Tannehill, he attended elementary school in Tannehill Prairie and then graduated from Indianola High school in the class of 1942. He entered the United States Army in September of 1942, and served in New Guinea during World War II. During his duty as a medical technician, he received the World War II Victory Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, The American Service Medal and the Asiatic Pacific Service Medal. He was discharged from active duty on January 6, 1946, at the grade of Tec 5 and immediately enlisted in the Army Reserves. During this time, he also served with the Army Reserves until placed on retired reserves in 1982 at sergeant first class.

He married Pauline Butler on September 10, 1945, in Sherman, Texas, and after returning from active duty. He began his higher education at Southeastern State College in Durant. He received his BS degree in 1949 in Education and began his teaching career at Savanna High School.

During this time he continued his education by attending summer school at Oklahoma A&M University at Stillwater, receiving his master's degree in administration education in 1954. He became the principal of Savanna High School, which was continued until 1962, at which time he accepted the position of principal and teacher at Tannehill Grade School until retirement in 1981.

He was a longtime member of the Second Baptist Church, a member of the Retired Teachers Association, and a 32nd degree Masonic 50-year member and Past Worshipful Master of the Savanna Blue Lodge #534, member of Blue Lodge #96, the McAlester Scottish Rite, The Pittsburg County Bedouin Shriners and the V.F.W. Post #1098. He was the former vice president of the Savanna Junior Chamber of Commerce and very active in the Boy Scouts of America, the Red Rose and the 4-H Club. He enjoyed fishing, building horse wagons and buggies and gardening.

Survivors include his wife, Pauline Tannehill, of the home; two daughters and a son-in-law, Carolyn and Ron Bradshaw of Tulsa, and Pam Tannehill of Rogers, Ark.; three grandchildren, Amy Beth Bradshaw of Tulsa, Heidi Ann Lobdell of Oklahoma City, Lynsey Diane Lobdell of Fayetteville, Ark.

Also, a great-grandson Brayden Alberson of Oklahoma City; four brothers, Edwin Tannehill of Hoxie, Ark., Joe C. Tannehill and wife Deyne, Vernon Tannehill and wife Bernice, Dean Tannehill and wife Joan, all of McAlester.

And two sisters, Jean Sullivan, Vera Greer and husband Wayne; a sister-in-law, Edna Earl Tannehill, all of McAlester, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Edgar and Carrie Tannehill; a brother, James Edgar "Jet" Tannehill, and a sister, Helen Roth.

Woodrow Wilson

Lt. Col. Woodrow Wilson, USAF, (ret.), age 93, of Richardson, Texas, passed away August 12, 2009.

The son of Darius and Edyth Wilson, he was born December 19, 1915, in Goodwater and graduated from Goodland High School in 1935. After graduation, he worked with the Civilian Conservation Corps at Beavers Bend. He entered Bacone College in 1936, and while there was a member of the baseball team and the famous Singing Redmen glee club. He graduated from Oklahoma A&M, now OSU, in 1940.

He was a 25 year Army and Air Force veteran. He mobilized with 180th Infantry, 45th Division in 1940 and transferred to the Army Air Corps where he completed bombardier training. During WWII he served in Africa, Sicily and Italy with 12th Air Force for 50 successful combat missions. In 1954 he organized the NCO academy at Kirkland AFB, which remained active until 2009. He also participated in the Atomic Testing program in Eniwetok as navigator of the photography plane. He then entered the missile program and worked with the Titan, Atlas and Minuteman missiles. He retired in 1965 and is survived by his wife of 67 years, Madolynne; two daughters, Janis Benefield of Houston, Texas, and Linda Wilson of Richardson; grandson Bradley Benefield of Houston; sisters Juanita Garnick of Tulsa and Margaret Dietrich of Greenville, N.C. He is interred at the D/FW National Cemetery.

OBITUARIES

Beatrice Betty Merryman Clayton

Beatrice Betty Merryman Clayton passed away October 31, 2009, in Mesa, Ariz. Born November 18, 1919, in Mena, Arkansas. She was the oldest daughter and third child of Leo E. (an original Choctaw enrollee) and Oda Merryman.

Beatrice was an accomplished artist and master gardener. She worked with her deceased husband in his carpentry contracting. She was also an accomplished seamstress. She sewed for Sears in-home and made clothes for her family. She was a cosmetologist, owning several of her own beauty salons. She had a Merle Norman studio in her home where she sold cosmetics and gave facials. She acquired an import/export shop where she taught painting, macrame, decopodge and ceramics. She also raised herbs for sale.

At 80 years old she drove to Arizona to live where her folks settled from Arkansas when she was eight years old. In Apache Junction, Ariz., she bought several places and started a gourd business and taught raising, curing and usage of gourds. She excelled in all of her endeavors.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Lola; two brothers Leon and Lonzo Merryman; niece Lonna; several aunts, uncles and many cousins.

She is survived by her children, sons Marvin (Roger) and Robert (Bobby) and daughters Jacqueline and Donna; and her six surviving siblings, Pairlee, Rudeen, Lurahee, Leroy, Lavaughn and Lenton. Beatrice also left behind her legacy to her 13 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.



Eddie Vinson Edwards

Eddie Vinson Edwards I of Edmond, 79, left us to be with our Lord on October 29, 2009. He was born October 7, 1930, to Wilson and Dollie Edwards in Kingfisher. He lived in several locations in Oklahoma while growing up.

After graduating from high school he went to work for OPUBCO. The Korean War began and Eddie and several of his friends enlisted in the Navy. He served from 1950-1954, and was on the U.S.S. A.A. Cunningham D.D. 752 in Korea. He was very proud of having fought for his country. Upon returning from the war, he went back to work at the Oklahoman. He then went to work as a highway design engineer with the Oklahoma Highway Department.

He received a Bachelor of Industrial Arts degree from Oklahoma City University on May 23, 1960. He loved learning and decided to go to law school. While working full time and raising a family, he earned his Juris Doctor from Oklahoma City University on May 17, 1969. He was admitted to the Oklahoma Bar Association in September 1969. He worked for the Veterans Department in Muskogee and then practiced law for a Native American firm in Tahlequah. He then began a long work history with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, working in Horton, Kan., Sacramento and Palm Springs, Calif., and Washington, D.C. During his last two years with the BIA, he had an assignment to work on Indian Law at the Oklahoma City University School of Law. He ended his career while researching Indian Law in Washington, D.C. He retired from the federal government in January 1993. He was a proud member of the Choctaw Tribe of Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents and only sister, Hibernia. He is survived by his wife Mary; son Eddie II; daughter Debra and husband Jackie Alexander of Sulphur; daughter Carolyn and husband Harold Johnson of Edmond; daughter Amy and husband Brian Stovall of Chandler, Ariz.; daughter Emily and son Chandler of Edmond; three stepchildren, many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and brother James of Oklahoma City. He was an amazing husband, father and granddad and will be missed dearly.

Violet Gertrude Carmichael

Violet Gertrude Carmichael, 91, of Tulsa, passed away Thursday, October 15, 2009. She was born March 24, 1918, in McAlester to the late William Ples and Mary Ann (Traut) Rock.

She was a longtime member of the Eastwood Baptist Church. She retired as Account Supervisor with the Corps of Engineers.

Her husband Glenn Carmichael preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Carl Rock and Coy Rock, and two sisters, Millie Thompson and Lois Hull.

She is survived by her son Tom Carmichael of the home and one sister, Mary Rose Thompson of Verdegris, and several nieces and nephews.

Gladys Constant

Gladys (Moore) Constant peacefully passed away at home from natural causes on May 31, 2009. She had just celebrated her 74th birthday.

Gladys was born on May 24, 1935, in Savanna to Katie and Robert Moore. One of seven children, she had a happy childhood and loved being a part of a large family. She was proud of her Choctaw heritage, counting her great grandfather as a tribal chief. Her middle name, Nema, means "little princess" in Choctaw.

Gladys attended schools in Oklahoma until her family moved to Prineville, Ore. There, she graduated from Crook County High School and later attended business college in Wenatchee, Wash.

On September 16, 1953, Gladys married Eugene Constant in Prineville, Ore. They were happily married for 52 years, until his death in 2006. Gladys had three children; Fred Constant of Vashon, Jeanette Constant Lathrop and husband Bill of Olympia and Robert Constant of Lynnwood.

Gladys was a homemaker and also worked for the Lake Washington School District for 12 years. One of her specialties was timing cookies to be coming out of the oven just as her children returned from school. After her children were raised, she worked for department stores in Wenatchee and in Everett, Wash.

Gladys was a loving grandmother to five grandchildren; Owen, Mike, Sallie, Jeff and Dave. She is also survived by her sister, Jewel Mooney of Prineville, Ore., and her brother Ray Moore and wife Nellie of The Dalles, Ore.

Gladys was a resident of Chehalis, Wash., since December of 1991. She had been involved with her husband in Telephone Pioneers and the Elks. For many years, she was a member of Chehalis Valley Baptist Church and acted as church clerk for much of her time there. Gladys was a woman of strong faith and loved the Lord. She enjoyed reading, sewing, completing projects and family dinners. Her kindness and beautiful smile endeared her to many, and she is greatly missed.



LeRoy McClish

LeRoy McClish went home to heaven on November 4, 2009, at the age of 94. He was born on July 10, 1915, in Stonewall to Lorden and Ema (Johnson) McClish. Oklahoma was always his home.

As a child he loved to hunt skunk and coons on his family land. He would go hunting overnight when he was only nine years old. He would tell stories of his adventures when he was a boy. His family loved them. He lost his father and two siblings at a very young age. He had said that his mother gave him to the Lord and that's the reason he had lived so long. He lived his life for the Lord and helped many people come to know the Lord as well. He was a carpenter and built many houses. He also sold real estate in Oklahoma. His love for the Lord was what led him to become an ordained gospel minister. He loved to sing and was asked to preach at several churches. His last few years were taken at much slower pace, but he was still taking trips and enjoying God's artwork. He loved to eat and had dinner at the Senior Center everyday for the good food and visit with great friends. His last dinner was spent with his good friend Paul.

He married Darline Rachel Cottom and was the father of three children, Jimmie, Tony and Sherry. Darline passed in 1973. Years later he met a wonderful lady named DeLois and they were married March 26, 1983. DeLois is the mother of Roger, Jim, Connie and Jane.

LeRoy is survived by his daughter, Sherry Page and husband Jim of Lady Lake, Fla.; grandchildren, Colinda Rease of Lake Jackson, Tex., Coleen McClish of LaPorte, Tex., Jimmie D. McClish Jr. of Seadrift, Tex., Candice Hunt and husband Fred of Brazoria, Tex., and Jason McClish of LaPorte; great-grandchildren, Michelle McClish of LaPorte, Richard Rease Jr. and wife Jessica of Conroe, Tex., Robert Rease of Lake Jackson, Jessica Lynn Rease of Lake Jackson, Jasmine McGarity of San Antonio, Tex., Jerry McGarity Jr. and wife Patricia of LaPorte, Tia McClish of Pasadena, Tex., Amber McClish and April McClish, both of Oyster Creek, Tex., Christopher Hunt and Garrett Hunt, both of Brazoria, Tex.; and great-great-grandchildren, Tiffany McGarity of La Porte, Shymichael McGarity and Jerry McGarity III, both of Alabama, Evan Rease, Kevin Rease and Johnathan Rease, all of Conroe.



Charles Jacob Allen

Charles Jacob Allen, 14, of Tannehill, died Saturday, November 7, 2009.

Born December 3, 1994, in Ada, he was the son of Charles W. and Vanessa Marlene (Frazier) Allen. He had lived in the McAlester area all his life, the last three years at Tannehill. He graduated from Tannehill School last year and was currently attending Indianola High School as a freshman, where he was involved in the FFA.

He enjoyed shooting skeet, attending the Choctaw social dances, go carts, softball, video games and music. He also loved to ride and care for horses. He enjoyed cowboying and was just getting ready to start riding bulls in junior rodeos. He was affiliated with the Scipio Baptist Church.

Survivors include his parents Charles and Vanessa Allen of the home; four sisters and two brothers-in-law Megan and John Sowers of Tulsa, Amber and Michael Pirkowski of Muskogee, Leah Allen of the home and Reanna Allen of the home.

Also, grandparents Dollie M. Horton and James R. Horton of Canadian Shores; one nephew and three nieces Andrew and Meadow Sowers and Serenity and Alexis Pirkowski.

And aunts and uncles, Edmond Frazier Jr. of McAlester, Gilbert Bryan Frazier of McAlester, Jack and Mona Allen of Canadian, Richard and Tammy Allen of Canadian Shores, Roy and June Horton of Mead, Dianna and Clarence Woods of Canadian, D.J. Woods of Muskogee, Carolyn and Kenny Tucker of Mead, and Joann and Jim Ralls of Kiowa.

And special cousins Jay De Frazier, Yimmie Maris and Lakota "Bear" Whitelance and numerous other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather Don Allen; maternal grandparents the Rev. Edmond Frazier Sr. and Louella Frazier, and aunt Bonnie Frazier.

Aaron Van Frazier

Aaron Van Frazier, 53, of McAlester, died Wednesday, October 21, 2009, at McAlester Regional Health Center.

Born October 5, 1956, in Talihina, he was the son of Gilbert and Alice (King) Frazier. His family came to McAlester when he was young and he had lived here all his life. He graduated from McAlester High School in 1974.

He worked in parts assembly at Spirit for several years.

He liked to play golf and was a big sports fan in general, but was a huge fan of Oklahoma University athletics. He was a member of the First Indian Baptist Church of McAlester.

Survivors include three children, Jordan Frazier, Jrue Frazier and Jayde Frazier, all of Wilburton; his mother, Alice Frazier of McAlester.

Also, four sisters and one brother-in-law, Lisa Frazier of McAlester, Janice and Deswood Bitsoi of McAlester, Stella Walker, of McAlester, and Shelli Dailey of Hartshorne and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, the Rev. Gilbert Frazier; two brothers; his grandparents and one nephew.

Virginia Ethelyn York

Virginia Ethelyn York, Ed. D., 78, went to the open arms of our Lord on October 16, 2009. She was born in Okemah on October 7, 1931. She was an educator and language specialist, a master-teacher of exceptional skill since the age of 19, a language consultant, researcher, writer, lecturer and innovator of educational methods and materials. She was a frequent lecturer at the annual state-wide California Reading Association Convention. Mrs. York was also a field participant of the Evaluations Committee reviewing master plan schools for the state of California Special Education Department (1977) and a member of the California State Textbook Adoptions Committee the same year.

Ethelyn is survived by the love of her life of 53 years, Thurnace York, Ph.D.; sons Christopher Thurnace York and wife Rebecca and Rob York and wife Angela; and six grandchildren.



Vera Mae Kemp

Vera Mae Kemp was born on May 26, 1946, in Oklahoma City to the late Winfred Jacob and Elsie Mae (Williamson) Lewis. She went on to be with her heavenly father on October 16 in Sulphur at the age of 63.

She graduated from Sulphur High School in 1965 and attended college. She and Bobby Kemp were married on March 13, 1967, in Wright City. Vera worked as a practical nurse at the Veteran's Center in Sulphur where she retired in 2007 after 24 years. She enjoyed reading the bible, cooking, shopping and spending time with her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Marwan Kemp; two brothers, Javine James Lewis and Jerry Wayne Lewis; and two sisters, Wilma Lewis and Rowena Alice "Janell" Huff.

Survivors include three sons, Bobby Ray Kemp Jr. and Zachery Waylen Kemp, both of Sulphur, and Montilito "Max" Kemp of Ada; one brother, Alex Lewis of Sulphur; three sisters, Louetta Foreman of Davis, Regina Lopez of Sulphur and Zelma Lanter of Davis; and five grandchildren.

Dwight D. Davis

SP4 Dwight D. Davis, Round Rock, Texas, passed away May 23, 2007. He was born July 29, 1947, and was an Army veteran. He was a training non-commissioned officer with the 980th Military Police Company at the Sierra Army Dept., Herlong, Calif., from 1969-1973.

He was a loving husband, father and humanitarian who gave selflessly with no thought of cost.

He is survived by his wife, Celia L. Bazar Davis, and sons Chancy D. Davis and Brionne D. Davis.

Pamela Sue (Brackett) Sisemore

Pamela Sue (Brackett) Sisemore passed away on Tuesday, October 27, at the Johnston Memorial Hospital in Tishomingo.

She was born on June 28, 1982, in Lawton to Gary D. Brackett and Dora I. Baker Brackett. She attended school in Achille and was married to Jeffery Sisemore. Pam worked as a nurse's aide until her health require that she stop working.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Wilson and Pauline Clark and Edith and Kyle Baker.

Pam is survived by her husband Jeff and three sons, Stran, Zachary and Kash Sisemore, all of the home; her parents, Dora and Carl Don Lawson of Tishomingo and Gary and Shana Brackett of Cartwright; three sisters, Angie Pablo and Margaret Costello of Durant and Lori Louth of Tishomingo; her stepbrothers, Jimmy Rice of Teague, Texas, Devante Lawson of Tishomingo and Kyle Gawrych of Cartwright; numerous other relatives and friends.



Rowena Alice 'Janell' Huff

Rowena Alice "Janell" Huff was born on November 12, 1957, in Lawton to the late Winfred Jacob and Elsie Mae (Williamson) Lewis. She went on to be with her heavenly father on October 16 in Sulphur at the age of 51.

She graduated from Sulphur High School in 1976 and worked for a number of years at the Chickasaw Motor Lodge as a cook. She was noted as a hard worker. She cherished time with her friends and above all her three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Javine James Lewis and Jerry Wayne Lewis; and two sisters, Wilma Lewis and Vera Kemp.

Survivors include daughters, Alethea Reyes and Jamaeca Huff, and their father, John Huff, all of Sulphur, one brother, Alex Lewis of Sulphur, three sisters, Louetta Foreman and Zelma Lanter, both of Davis, and Regina Lopez of Sulphur, and three grandchildren, Skyler Garnet, Ethan Kirby and Diego Lopez.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

Market open weekdays January 4-26, except for:

- January 6: Idabel 9-11:30 a.m.; Broken Bow 12-2 p.m.
- January 13: Bethel 9-10:30 a.m.; Smithville 12-2 p.m.
- Closed January 1 for holiday.
- Closed January 27-29 for inventory.
- Food Demo - January 14 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

DURANT

Warehouse open weekdays January 4-26, except for:

- Closed January 1 for holiday.
- Closed January 27-29 for inventory.
- Food Demo - January 14 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

McALESTER

Market open weekdays January 5-26, except for:

- January 4: Stigler 9-12 a.m. (market closed).
- Closed January 1 for holiday.
- Closed January 27-29 for inventory.
- Food Demo - January 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

POTEAU

Market open weekdays January 4-26, except for:

- Closed January 1 for holiday.
- Closed January 27-29 for inventory.
- Food Demo - January 5.

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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Choctaw Nation's 5th Annual Pow Wow

Once again, the Event Center in Durant filled with color, music and dance as the fifth annual Choctaw Nation Pow Wow was held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Two grand entries were held, one at midday and one in the evening to give everyone a chance to both watch and participate.

