

Students fill coliseum for DARE rodeo



Gov. Henry speaks to teens

Approximately 7,000 seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders filled the coliseum in Durant on October 10 for the action-packed 2006 DARE Rodeo. "Flying High Without Drugs" was the theme this year, a sentiment stressed by Oklahoma Governor

Brad Henry as he emphasized the dangers of drug abuse. "Think about your future, your dreams, your goals – and just say no," he said.

Keynote speakers also included astronauts John Herrington and Katherine Thornton. Herrington is the first American Indian in space; Thornton, as a female, also beat the odds. Neither could have reached their dreams if drug abuse had been a part of their life.

Councilmembers approve new budgets

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council met in regular session October 14 at Tushka Homma. Six items of new business were on the day's agenda, kicking off with a Council Bill on the budget for the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement. Councilmembers approved the budget of \$898,853 allotted by the Department of Justice.

Also receiving approval were the continuation of the Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids grant for the remainder of the project period for the tribe; an oil and gas lease; a right-of-way agreement; becoming a member of the National Congress of American Indians; and revising and updating the Choctaw Nation Gaming Ordinance to reflect the many changes in the gaming industry.

Funds to aid Shady Point School

Shady Point School students are benefitting from the cooperation of Choctaw Nation, U.S. Congressman Dan Boren and AES, a power producer for OG&E since 1991. Shady Point Superintendent Sandy Thompson said 71 percent of the children at Shady Point are Native American.

The AES power plant agreed to match the first \$10,000 that the school could raise for new playground equipment. One of the first calls the Superintendent and AES made was to District 2 U.S. Congressman, Dan Boren. Realizing the immense safety issue, Boren contacted Chief Greg Pyle and shared the concern of replacing the old equipment.

The Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles Program was able to grant the school with a one-time, \$5,000 gift. Although other fundraising efforts have commenced with Shady Point, the match for the AES \$10,000 has not yet been reached. In spite of this, AES found made their donation so that the equipment could be ordered and a partial payment made.

The school is working hard to raise the remainder of the needed funds to have the playground completed. A 3-on-3 basketball tournament, Fall Festival, and saving box tops, ink cartridges and old cell phones are all efforts the school is encouraging in order to raise money to finish paying for the playground equipment.

Students attend Shady Point through eighth grade, then are bused to high school at Panama.



Tribe breaks ground for new clinic

Shovels turned dirt at Broken Bow on October 18 in a symbolic celebration of the construction beginning on the newest addition to the Choctaw Nation Health Services. A clinic is being constructed east of Broken Bow on Hwy. 271. The new clinic will be near the tribe's Family Investment Center and Boys and Girls Club and will be a same-day appointment facility.

Similar to an urgent care center, the Broken Bow Health Clinic will have doctors and health professionals who diagnose illness and chronic problems, and provide up to a three-day supply of medicine. Additional pharmaceuticals will be given through a mail-supply refill pharmacy being constructed at Poteau.

The same-day appointment clinic in Broken Bow will take calls beginning at 8 a.m. each morning and give a time slot for patients to come in and see the physician. Follow-up care will be provided at other Choctaw clinics, such as the one in Idabel.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle talked about Choctaw projects in the works for improved access to health care. "We are getting ready to build a clinic in Atoka, and the clinic in McAlester is rapidly taking shape.

"The Pharmacy Refill Center in Poteau is under construction and we hope to have it finished by early summer, in conjunction with the Broken Bow Clinic."



Innovative housing units open for elders

A ribbon-cutting ceremony held October 19 marked the opening of a 23-unit complex for Choctaw elders in Poteau. Choctaw Poteau Properties Inc., the first of its kind for the tribe, is located on 20 acres just behind the Choctaw Travel Plaza and next to 10 existing homes the tribe initially built in 2003 to provide elders with an independent living community.

The \$1.5 million development, a joint venture of the Choctaw Nation and HUD's multi-family division, also includes a large community room complete with a television, kitchen area, laundry room, and an above-ground storm shelter.

All of the housing units are equipped with call switches, emergency lighting, a sprinkler system and other fire prevention items. Four are equipped as full disability units, including wheelchair accessibility, roll-in shower facilities and safety grab bars.

These new homes will help alleviate some of the demand for affordable housing in the Poteau area and at the same time, provide a safe, clean and comfortable environment in which our elders can live. A second complex consisting of 19 units will soon be under construction in Idabel and grants have been submitted for Hugo and Calera.



Graduation ceremony held at EOSC for GED students

A record number of graduates received diplomas September 29 during the Choctaw Nation's ninth annual graduation ceremony for GED students.

Held in Eastern Oklahoma State College's Mitchell Auditorium, Wilburton, the milestone event has become a symbol of hope and aspiration.

The graduates, from various walks of life and a wide range

of ages, all have one goal in life – to succeed.

"Be positive, be proud of yourself, but stay within your limits," keynote speaker James Dunegan told the group. "Some will grow fast, some not so fast, but try to learn something new every day."

Among the graduates unable to attend the ceremony are four who are in the military and

three in CLEET training.

The top student of the year is Mary Cruz; also in the top ten are Andrea Bounds, Tristan Brisbon, Gari Hamilton, Brandi Hampton, Beckie Johnson, Gabriel Leflore, Courtney Page, Autumn Romero and Stacy Yandell.

Completing the graduating class of 2006 are Kathleen
See GRADS on Page 2

Code Talker exhibit premieres

The Oklahoma Museum of History, a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society, will open a new exhibit on November 10 featuring the history of the Choctaw and Comanche Code Talkers. This exhibit will complement the traveling exhibit "Native Words, Native Warriors," a project of the National Museum of the American Indian that will interpret the history of Indian Code Talkers from across the United States. After it completes the appearance at the Oklahoma History Center, it will travel to other museums across the nation.

At the end of the 19th century the assimilation policy of the United States government threatened to eradicate hundreds of native languages. By the time of World War I, the speakers of native languages had become a quantifiable statistic. Boarding schools and other institutions habitually punished children for speaking the language of their ancestors. Talking in their own language had to be done clandestinely.

The first organized official code talkers were a group of Choctaws from Southeast Oklahoma who fought with the 36th Infantry Division in France during World War I.

In 1917, 18 Choctaw soldiers serving in France provided an opportunity for the U.S. Army

'Hidden Voices, Coded Words' features history of the Choctaw and Comanche Code Talkers

to secure communications from enemy eavesdropping. The venture was so successful that before the beginning of World War II, the U.S. Army developed a plan to actively recruit Indians for the same duty the Choctaw performed in World War I.

In 1940, the U.S. Army recruited and trained 17 Comanche Indians from Oklahoma to serve as radio operators using their native language to send and receive coded messages. On June 6, 1944, the 4th Signal company was among the units making the D-Day landing on the coast of Normandy. The first message from Utah Beach was sent in Comanche by Larry Sauppity. Sauppity was assigned to Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. as his personal radio operator.

Soldiers from other tribes also used their language to fight the enemy during World War II. Many of these men did so in impromptu ways, most of them temporarily. The distance between then and now has eroded away the memory of many of

these men so that we will never truly know all of their contributions.

In developing the title "Hidden Voices, Coded Words" several thoughts arose. "Hidden Voices, Coded Words" refers to the inability of the German and Japanese troops to understand the languages that they heard on telephone lines and radio waves. The very nature of the Code Talkers was to hide their voices and words in plain sight. On another level, it refers to the largely unknown history of Indian Code Talkers in American history.

"Hidden Voices, Coded Words" will tell the story of the U.S. Government's attempts to eradicate native languages through boarding schools, how students of those boarding schools later used their native language to fight the enemies of the United States, and how the legacy of those men fits into contemporary language programs.

"Hidden Voices, Coded Words" will be on exhibit to the general public from November 10, 2006, to January 15, 2007.

The Oklahoma History Center is located at 2401 N. Laird St. Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday noon-5 p.m. For more information contact the Oklahoma Museum of History at 405-522-5248 or go to the museum web site www.okhistorycenter.org.

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle ...

Tribal program gets statewide award – Champion of Oklahoma Health



An exceptional drinking and driving prevention and awareness program developed by staff of the Choctaw Nation Health Services has been chosen as the Champion of Oklahoma Health, the highest recognition in the 2006 Champions of Health Awards. Through the Choctaw Nation's Project CHILD (Children's Health Interventions and Lifestyle Development) initiative, this program, called "I Died, Who's Next?," delivers a message with impact – the fact that alcohol-related vehicle crashes are the nation's #1 killer of teens. The tribal program is brought to public schools and requires direct participation from some of the students.

Over the course of two days, students are chosen, taken from the classroom, given a black T-shirt, and told they are not allowed to speak or be spoken to. A "car wreck," complete with automobile and the chosen students lying around "bloody," "injured" and "dead" is staged outside, with one of the students in the "wreck" as an actor, screaming "Help me, I've killed my friends because I was drunk." The local law enforcement and funeral homes get involved in the

program and actually "work the wreck" using body bags, "arresting the drunk driver," etc. Then in assembly, an accident report and "obits" are read, and students, including the "dead" are allowed to speak about what they would have done or said if they had had a chance prior to the accident. What starts out the first day as fun to the kids turns out to be taken very seriously, with scarcely a dry eye in the house. It has been a tremendously effective program.

"I Died, Who's Next?" was selected from more than 120 Champions of Health award nominations. The Champions of Health awards program was created in 2004 by five partner organizations – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Oklahoma Hospital Association, the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association and the Oklahoma State Medical Association. The awards program recognizes outstanding organizations and individuals dedicated to improving the health of Oklahomans.

I congratulate the staff of Choctaw Nation Health Services for implementing this unique program.

Chief Gregory E. Pyle

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey ...

Roping event raises funds for foster children

A very special thank you goes to volunteers who worked the four-day roping October 12 through 15 to raise funds for the Choctaw Nation Foster Care Program. The rodeo event was a memorial to David Bacon, a tribal employee from Boswell who passed away in November of 2005. A rancher, David enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren riding and roping. He shared these activities with the many foster children he made a home for.

Mr. Bacon and his wife were foster parents for many years prior to his death. This Memorial Roping is one way to continue the good works that he started. The majority of the proceeds from the event will be used to provide a nice Christmas for the



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey

youth who are in the Choctaw Nation Foster Care Program.

Those who are interested in becoming a foster parent and offering a home to children in need are encouraged to call 1-800-522-6170, ext. 2335. Billy Graham once said, "God has

given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with." Mr. Bacon epitomized these words with his generosity to young people and I am proud to have been a part of an activity that furthered this generosity to foster children.

Christmas Parties

Antlers Children.....	December 8.....	6 p.m.
Antlers Seniors.....	December 20.....	11:30 a.m.
Atoka Children (ages 1-12).....	December 12.....	6 p.m.
at the Atoka Community Center on the Coalgate Hwy.		
Bethel Children.....	December 14.....	6 p.m.
Bethel Seniors.....	December 15.....	12 noon
Broken Bow Children.....	December 11.....	6 p.m.
Broken Bow Seniors.....	December 13.....	12 noon
Buffalo Valley Children.....	December 5.....	6 p.m.
Burkhart Children.....	December 7.....	7 p.m.
Coalgate Children.....	December 10.....	2 p.m.
Coalgate Seniors.....	December 12.....	12 noon
Crowder Children.....	December 9.....	1 p.m.
Crowder Seniors.....	December 13.....	11:30 p.m.
Durant Children.....	December 1.....	6 p.m.
Eagletown Children.....	December 11.....	7:30 p.m.
Heavener Children.....	December 4.....	7 p.m.
Hugo Children.....	December 1.....	6 p.m.
Hugo Seniors.....	December 11.....	11:30 a.m.
Idabel Children.....	December 4.....	6 p.m.
McAlester Children		
(ages 1-10).....	December 2.....	1-4 p.m.
McAlester Seniors.....	December 13.....	11:30 a.m.
Poteau Children.....	December 9.....	4-6 p.m.
Poteau Seniors.....	December 6.....	11:30 a.m.
Quinton Children.....	December 7.....	6 p.m.
Smithville Children.....	December 5.....	7 p.m.
Spiro Children.....	December 11.....	4-6 p.m.
Spiro Seniors.....	December 19.....	11 a.m.
Stigler Children.....	December 15.....	4-6 p.m.
Stigler Seniors.....	December 20.....	11:30 a.m.
Summerfield Children.....	December 10.....	2-4 p.m.
Talihina Children.....	December 8.....	7 p.m.
Tushka Homma Children.....	December 5.....	6 p.m.
Tushka Homma Seniors.....	December 14.....	6 p.m.
Wilburton Children.....	December 9.....	2 p.m.
Wilburton Seniors.....	December 20.....	12 noon
Wright City Children.....	December 11.....	6 p.m.
Wright City Seniors.....	December 13.....	12 noon

Let us thank Him!

Thanksgiving greeting to you in the Choctaw language:

"Yakni mma kut yakoki achi nitak ai ulphihisa tok a il afamah mak osh e hieli hokut, Chihowa ut pi hullo, micha pi nukhaklo na nan ulhpesa bieka ho ai itunohowat afumi achuffa moma ka il afama hokut, Yakoki! il ima hachi pullaske."

It is interpreted: "Thanksgiving Day is a day set aside as a national holiday. A day when we can pause and thank God for His love, and for His bountiful blessing bestowed upon us during the past year. Let us thank Him!"

The Apostle Paul wrote in First Thessalonians 5:18, "In every thing give thanks ..." He said in II Corinthians 9:15, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

If we are to give thanks for everything, we can begin with happy things we enjoy regularly, the fellowships with our family and friends. Let us thank God that we are alive. If we had never been born, we would never enjoy our family. Thank the people who are making life better for you. It is good to read the many grateful expressions of thanksgiving in the Choctaw Nation official publication, "Bishinik."

Many of us know that we have learned the most through the rough experiences of life. God's way is to bring about the best in us under the pressure of tough times. God usually gets our attention when we feel our inability to cope with these circumstances. Our weakness gives God an opportunity to show His strength. "... My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness ..." (II Corinthians 12:9)

We live in a world filled with hurts. For millions it is by hunger, sickness, disease, and exposure to danger. It ends with death, which is usually a painful experience. Yes, suffering is a major factor of life.

Human life is also characterized by another form of misery. We humans endure mental torture as a result of feelings of guilt, the suffering and death of a loved one, or fear of the future.

We also experience anguish and frustration.

If we walked through a veteran's hospital and talked with men who are armless, without legs, or who carry with them horrible disfigurements we would be troubled by those in physical distress. But we would soon discover that the pain that they feel in their bodies is nothing compared to the mental anguish to which they and their loved ones are subjected.

Then, too, thousands of people live daily with the fear of death hanging over them. While others, trapped in the slums of a large city or gripped in the clutches of alcoholism or drug abuse, face each new day with a feeling of desperation and hopelessness.

Yes, our world is so filled with suffering that a sensitive person cannot help but wonder why God has allowed it to be this way. The question keeps coming up. "Why doesn't the Lord do something about these terrible conditions?" A non-Christian may conclude that if no God exists that life is hardly worth living.

To find the answer, we turn to the Bible. The opening chapters of the Bible make it clear that pain, grief, and death are present in the world because of sin.

We read in Genesis 1:31, "... God saw that every thing that he had made, behold, it was very good ..."

The second chapter depicts Adam and Eve as living in a garden in which everything was in the state of perfect harmony. There were no sin, suffering or death.

Something happened to change the whole picture. Satan, who had been created an angelic being named Lucifer, but who had rebelled against God, led Adam and Eve to disobey God. As a result, man's perfect fellowship with God was broken, guilt plagued his conscience, fear filled his heart, and pain became a part of his life.

Genesis 3 records God's judgment spoken to Eve and to Adam. (Will you read Genesis 3:16-19?)

Suffering and death now become part of human being as a



Chaplain's Corner

The Rev. Bertram Bobb

result of man's sin. The apostle Paul wrote of sin and death in Romans 5:12:

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

We can say with certainty that the cause of all the suffering, heartache, sorrow, and death in the world is the sin of Adam and Eve.

As Christians we can thank God for past events that brought hope for this life and for eternity. We can thank Him for the First Coming of Jesus Christ and the Hope of the Second Coming, the Cross, and the Resurrection. We are grateful for the great writings of Paul as this verse in II Corinthians 5:19:

"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."

Jesus paid the penalty for sin, which is death, in your place.

If you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour, will you do that today? You do this by faith. We read in Isaiah 1:18, "... though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; ..." This will be a real Happy Thanksgiving Day for you.

November is Veteran's Day month when we pay honor and respect to our brave men and women who served and who are serving in our military services.

Pray for the Native American people for their spiritual and physical welfare. Pray for Tribal leaders for encouragement, strength, and wisdom.

May God bless you and your loved ones as we celebrate Thanksgiving Day 2006 is my prayer now.

DFW Native American Chamber of Commerce

Native American Awareness Expo

December 7, 2006

ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS INVITED!

If you are an American Indian living in the DFW area, the DFW Native American Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to come to the Native American Awareness Expo and MEET YOUR TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES FACE TO FACE. Tribal Nations are partnering with the DFWNACC to bring better access to tribal resources and information to members living in the Metroplex. Some of the resources and information you will be able to access are:

- *Tribal Enrollment
- *Housing
- *Health Information/Benefits
- *Education
- *Cultural and Language Programs
- *Social Services

Ruth Jackson Center
Warrior Trail & 3113 S. Carrier Parkway
Grand Prairie, TX 75052
972-237-7500

Date: December 7, 2006 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
(Registration Begins Promptly at 4:30 pm)
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
Angela Young at 214-941-1050 x202



Grand Champion Market Swine: Brad Spears, Judge Nick Mauk, Brandon Spears, Kelli Spears and Tristian Evans.



Breed Champion Chester White: Angel Andrade and Brandon Spears.



Reserve Breed Champion Chester White: Brandon Lowe, Agricultural Aide, and Alisha Picone.

Jones Academy captures top honors at Arkansas/Oklahoma State Fair

Tristian Evans, an eighth grade student at Jones Academy, exhibited the first place Class IV Cross Market hog at the Arkansas/Oklahoma State Fair in Fort Smith, Arkansas, held September 22-26.

His barrow, "Blue Neck," was selected as Champion Cross and went on to capture the title of Grand Champion Market Hog. This event hosted more than 600 market swine entries. The Grand

Champion was bred and raised at Jones Academy, Hartshorne.

Angel Andrade, a junior at Jones Academy, exhibited the first place and Reserve Breed Champion Chester White Market

Hog. Alisha's barrow, "Icee," was selected 12th overall in the premium sale lineup.

Alisha Picone, a fifth-grader at Jones Academy, showed the second place and Reserve Breed

Champion Chester White Market Hog. Alisha's barrow, "Buster," was 19th overall in premium sale lineup. Angel and Alisha's barrows were also bred and raised at Jones Academy.

The Jones Academy 4-H'ers appreciate Chief Pyle, Assistant Chief Bailey and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council for their continued support of 4-H and FFA programs.

Billy teaches and entertains students

Tannehill preschool through fourth grade students were introduced to Native American Storyteller Teresa Billy at the Rotary Park Amphitheater in McAlester. She told stories of how the o'possum lost his furry tail, how the turtle got cracks in his back, and all-time favorite, "The Little Red Hen."

After the storytelling, the children enjoyed a picnic lunch at the parks pavillion followed by an afternoon of fun and games.

Tannehill students are taught the Choctaw Language daily in a talk-back TV class. Teresa Billy is one of the instructors of the program which is taught out of Durant. The children have really enjoyed this wonderful learning experience.



Tannehill preschool through fourth grade students are getting ready for an exciting time listening to storyteller Teresa Billy from the Choctaw Nation.

Choctaws gather in San Bernardino and San Francisco



Cynthia McNutty is pictured with husband Cary, baby Mason, and her daughter, Megan Rudd at San Bernardino.



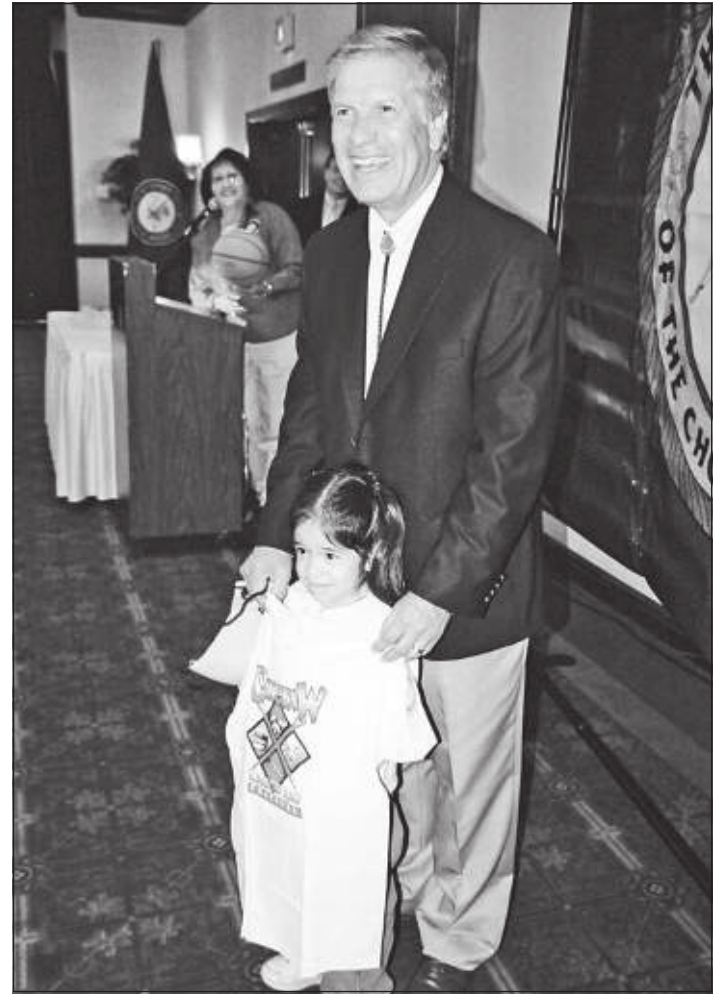
Birthday cake and song were presented to Delois Scott in honor of her 79th birthday. She is pictured here with her husband, Frank.



Bob Forehand, originally from Paola, now resides in Sun City. He is receiving housing information from Valerie Powell, Leah Williams and Russell Sossamon.



Feather Long and Congressman Joe Baca's representative, Rafael Trujillo, attend the meeting in San Bernardino.



Chief Greg Pyle gives a T-shirt to Jimena Robbins who drew the door prize tickets in San Bernardino.



Richard and Lisa Young arrive at the San Francisco meeting with baby Kiona. Richard came to get help in his effort to have a CDIB issued.



Okla Chahta Royalty pictured with Chief Pyle are Jr. Princess Kelsie Strohmaier, Little Miss Shaylah Youngdale and Honorary Princess Danaia Leyba.



Executive Director of Health Gary Batton visits with James Wilson at the San Francisco meeting.



Bob and Sandra Edwards gathered with other Choctaws in San Francisco. Bob is originally from Talihina.



Ruth Price, baby Dasan Aguilera and Ada Edwards are pictured with Chief Pyle in San Francisco.



Guest speakers at the 2006 DARE Rodeo include astronauts John Herrington and Kathy Thornton, Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry and Chief Greg Pyle.

DARE



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey participates in roping events.



Law enforcement officers are recognized.



Seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders filled the coliseum in Durant.



Is it a clown? No, it's the "Wild Child," Troy Lerwill.



Tie-down roping is popular among area rodeo fans.



100% Cowboy – Jason Meadows entertains.

World Champion

Jace "Peanut" Roberts, 13, of Atwood travels extensively throughout the United States and Canada with his family participating in many different pow-wows. At the Schemitzun World Championship pow-wow that usually takes place the third weekend in August, Peanut was crowned with the world championship title in the teen boy's grass dance category. He takes pride and honor in his traditional culture by taking part at many different native gatherings throughout the country. He is very proud to represent the Choctaw Nation. This is his second world championship title in two different dance styles.

The family of Peanut would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations and we are very proud of your accomplishment!



Eaton receives degree from CSU

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Jeffery Mark Eaton Jr. Jeffery graduated from Colorado State University in December 2005. He received his degree in Nutrition and Food Science Microbiology.

ECU grad earns master's

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate: Mindi Paige Smith McGehee. Mindi graduated in July 2006 from East Central University with a Master's of Education.

I would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for all the support and scholarship funds I received while attending school. I am proud to be a member of such a great and progressive tribe.



Tribe donates funds for roads

Antlers is home to one of the most beautiful industrial parks in Southeastern Oklahoma and

thanks to the Choctaw Nation, it has new roads and sidewalks throughout. The roads will make a difference when attracting more business, city officials claim.

"The park is something we can build on and the City of Antlers is thankful," Mayor Brent Franks.

"The help we can bring to an area, increasing jobs, improving the economy, helps all other problems in the area," said Chief Gregory E. Pyle. "This is going to be a huge development, one that will really stand out and be of great benefit to Antlers."

Choctaw Nation releases "Choctaw Stories Vol. 1"

Tribe's first animation of a Native American traditional story

The Choctaw Nation proudly announces the release of two beloved Choctaw traditional stories in DVD format. Both stories, "The Show-off Turkey" and "Little Ants Help Turtle," are available on one DVD, with each story presented in an English language translation and an original Choctaw language version. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, in partnership with Choctaw tribal member P.K. Work, have taken our nation in a new, exciting and wonderful direction that honors our past while placing us clearly in the world of today's high technology.

Tribal member P. K. Work, graphic artist and web developer, and President/CEO of Work Web Design, began working on this project in 2001 with the Choctaw Nation's Education Department under the leadership of Joy Culbreath. The oral tales and subsequent books released in the 1980s were the focal point of this project. Staying true to

the oral stories and the familiar graphics, P.K. Work and Work Web Design painstakingly and by hand, using the latest computer graphics available at the time, translated those characters and stories frame by frame into the first computer CD form.

Speaking about this project Work stated, "It was and is more than just the preservation of our traditional language and our traditional stories which in and of itself is extremely important. We are using computer graphics to preserve and disseminate traditional Choctaw values and beliefs systems. These stories convey how we as Choctaws see our world, how we react to it. It preserves and teaches values that we as Choctaw people have lived our lives by, have used and continue to use to exemplify our Choctaw way of life. These values have preserved the Choctaw Nation over hundreds of years in spite of efforts to silence us and take away our way of life."

"Animated Traditional Choctaw Stories Vol. 1" is another example of how Chief Pyle and Assistant Chief Bailey, through the Education Department, are

fulfilling their commitment to the Choctaw people to preserve our culture and language using whatever medium can best serve our people," said Work, CEO of Work Web Design, whose Native American (Choctaw) owned graphics and web development company worked up all of the computer animation and graphics involved in this DVD.

P.K. went on to say that "It was extremely rewarding and fun when our Native speakers came into the mix, then magic happened. Our exemplary native speaker did the voices of the characters and also acted a narrator in both Choctaw and English. It's amazing how long a sentence can be in Choctaw when spoken in Choctaw and how short the translation is in English." The voices, both in English and in Choctaw, were done by Richard Adams, Hannah Bryan, Virginia Espinoza, and Lillie Roberts, all Choctaw native speakers who teach Choctaw language classes through the Chata Anumpa Aiiikhvna (School of Choctaw Language).

The project, originally completed in 2002 in CD and VHS

formats, was remastered last year by Work when a decision was made to release it in the newer DVD format. Tribal members who have grown up with these stories know them well and will be delighted with this DVD. Many Choctaw children have been told these stories by grandparents and parents and elders over the years.

Excitement over the release of this DVD is widespread. Native American and OSU Professor John Cross of the Sociology Department at Oklahoma State University was so excited when he obtained a copy of it he stated he was going to see if he could get it included in OSU's language department classroom instruction. Professor Cross is a strong advocate of Native American rights and is a leading voice in the field of the preservations of naive cultures at OSU.

It is hoped that the Choctaw Nation people will add their two thumbs up to these stories so that more traditional stories will be done in the future. A copy can be purchased at: www.choctawnation.com/dsp_DVDOOrders.cfm.

2006 North American Indigenous Games Champion

Our thanks to Chief Pyle and the Choctaw Nation for their assistance in making these activities possible. John Ben Seidner, 15-year-old Choctaw tribal member from Midwest City, competed in the 2006 North American Indigenous Games in Denver, Colorado, recently, winning a gold medal in Judo in the Male 15-16 years-old +148 pounds category and a silver medal in the Male Adult 180 pounds category in Judo. Also, he won a gold medal in cadet division freestyle wrestling.

The Indigenous Games are the largest continuing Native American celebration of both sport and culture in North America. An estimate of 9,000 athletes from Canada and the United States participated in the week-long games.

David Seidner, John Ben's father and Judo coach, won a silver medal in Male Adult 180+ category in Judo. John Ben is a 2006 Oklahoma State Champion in Greco-Roman Wrestling, a 2006 Oklahoma State Judo Champion, a 2006 University of Oklahoma Open Wrestling Tournament Champion and a member of Team Oklahoma National Wrestling Team. He was also listed in this year's edition of "Who's Who Among American High School Students" and "Who's Who Among American High School Sports."

He is the son of David and Sheryl Littlecrow Seidner, grandson of Wilbur and Betty Slinker Seidner, all of Midwest City, great-grandson of William and Dorena Jones Slinker, both Choctaw, deceased, of Oklahoma City, and the great-great-grandson of original Choctaw enrollee Robinson Jones, deceased, and great-great-grandson of original Choctaw enrollee Logan Jones, deceased, both of Smithville. He's also the great nephew of Charley Jones deceased and Lou Jones of Idabel.



Lady angler

Juanita Konkright, daughter of Alice W. LeFlore, a full-blood Choctaw, finished fifth in the lady angler's division of American Bass Anglers Pro/Am tour. Over 500 people qualified for the nationals held in Paris, Tennessee. This is a week-long event with three days of practice and three days of tournament. The weather was good on the first two days, but falling water conditions made the fishing tough. Day three started with strong winds out of the northeast and delayed takeoff for two and a half hours, shortening the day. Juanita was proud to represent the Choctaw Nation at the nationals and wore her Choctaw patches throughout the tournament. Juanita and her husband have fished tournaments for five years as a team but this is her first year fishing the Pro/Am circuit.



River of Life Baptist Mission celebrates first year

Everyone is welcome to attend the first anniversary of River of Life Baptist Mission, Hochatown, on December 2. Preaching begins at 9 a.m., dinner is served at noon and singing begins at 1:30 p.m. Guest speakers include Eddie Lindsey and Kerry Warren. Pastor of River of Life is Lee Battiest.

2006 Labor Day Festival Softball Tournament Winners

Women's Division
1st: Ohoyo Homma; 2nd: Chatas; 3rd: Red Sox
Men's Division
1st: Next of Kind; 2nd: Nok-a-Homa; 3rd: Native American Comanches

Choctaw Nation honors its outstanding elders



Lyman Choate, District 2, Broken Bow, is a U.S. Navy veteran who also spent years in Reserve as an electrician. He attended Antlers, Goodland and Chilocco Indian schools. He was employed by Dierks, Weyerhaeuser and Pan Pacific, retiring in 1999. Currently, he is enjoying his God-given talent of working with wood and has won numerous art awards. He and his wife, Ruby, have five children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He attends Tohwali United Methodist Church and serves as a Church trustee.

Allen Williams, District 2, Bethel, (not pictured) is a Vietnam veteran and recent retiree from Weyerhaeuser with 39 years of service. He enjoys spending time with six daughters and granddaughters and going on senior citizen trips. Mike Amos is District 2 Councilman.



Melissa Bohanan, District 2, Bethel, a full-blood Choctaw lady, attends Kulli Chito Church, Bethel. She attends the Bethel Center for the meals program and is active with the Senior Fitness Program. She is a family caregiver to her husband of 57 years, Robert Bohanan, and has raised 10 children. Her hobbies include hunting and fishing.



Leon Bohanan, District 3, Smithville, is retired from USEM with 33 years of service as a test technician. He is currently employed part-time as custodian at the Smithville Community Center, grounds keeper, van maintenance personnel and van driver. He is an ordained Presbyterian Lay Preacher, appointed to serve 11 Presbyterian Churches, delivering his messages in both Choctaw and English. Kenny Bryant is Councilperson for District 3.



Leona Samuel, District 3, Smithville, is retired from the Smithville Public School as teacher's assistant with 28 years of service. She is active with the Nanih Chito Presbyterian Church serving as secretary and treasurer of Sunday School for 12 churches. Leona and her husband of 36 years attend the Smithville Senior Center. She is currently the volunteer leader for the Senior Fitness Program.



Gilbert Smallwood, District 3, Talihina, is a retired coach, educator and administrator within Rattan, Buffalo Valley and Talihina schools. He earned his BS on a SOSU basketball scholarship and MS degrees from SOSU while employed with the Talihina school system. "My career has been my pride and joy," says Mr. Smallwood, "and I hope somewhere along the way I made a difference in the lives of young people." He enjoys the daily meals and fellowships at the Talihina Center.



Viola McCurtain, District 3, Talihina, a full-blood Choctaw, attended and graduated from Wheelock Female Academy on May 26, 1939, and received her GED on January 14, 1975. She has been employed with County Extension and as a home and school aide with Talihina Public Schools. She is a faithful member of St. Paul United Methodist Church, serving as treasurer, and served as district officer in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. Her cultural activities include participating with Talihina Indian Club, Choctaw Language Classes, Native Crafts Sessions and Choctaw vocabulary and Bible sessions. She is an active Choctaw choir member recording Choctaw Hymns. She has been active in updating the Choctaw dictionary.



Hooser, Bohanan top elders of 2006

Choctaw elders were honored October 5 with a banquet held at the Choctaw Inn in Durant. Chosen as the Outstanding Male and Female Elder of 2006 are John A. Hooser, District 7, and Carrie Belle Tonihka Bohanan, District 2 (not pictured). Chief Gregory E. Pyle and respective Councilpersons awarded each of the Outstanding Elders and each nominee with a plaque.

Hooser, a U.S. Navy veteran, attended Eastern State College, Southeastern State College, and Oklahoma State University where he earned his master's degree and did his graduate work. He began his career as an educator in 1952, then as educator/administrator until his retirement. He began his second career as a supervisor on Veterans Education and is involved with many community activities, including president of Pushmataha County Retired Educators, board member of Clayton City Council, Clayton Cemetery Board, and Cartwright Memorial Library. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Clayton and serves on the finance committee. Hooser is also a member of Frisco Baptist Association group, a group known as "Nail Benders," who helps build and repair churches. He is also involved with the Lions Club.

During the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City, he gave a paper that may be used for the upcoming State of Oklahoma 100 years celebration, "The Mission of Peter J. Hudson for Education, Religion, History and the Choctaw Tribe," a story about his papa.

Hooser has attended many leadership opportunities at Southwestern State College in Weatherford, Florida State University, University of Maryland, Las Vegas, and University of Colorado.

His awards and honors include National Membership Chairman for National Science Teachers Association, President of Council State Science Supervisors and the Missouri Science Educators Award. He had two publications, "Editorial," Science Teacher, January 1970, and "To the Science Teachers of Missouri," Missouri Science News, April 1970. He has or had professional and academic association memberships: National Science Teachers Association, lifetime membership; Council State Science Supervisors, Phi Delta Kappa, and Science Teachers of Missouri.

Hooser married Lucille Spencer in 1944 and they have three children.

Jack Austin is his Councilman.

Carrie Belle Tonihka Bohanan was unable to attend the banquet because she was spending time with a military grandson who had returned stateside for a short time. She maintains God first, family second, and others.

Very vivid in her memory is the loss of Carrie Belle's mother at a very young age and the beginning of her formal education, one in which she was not allowed to speak her Choctaw language. Her father and grandmother cared for her and she was beside her dad at all times. Knowing that Carrie needed an education, he and a friend drove her to Wheelock. While she was being distracted by the Superintendent her dad walked out and left. She chased after her father but was unable to stop him. She spoke very little English, only "yes ma'am" and "no ma'am."

Carrie overcame and adapted to changes in her life. She made eye contact with a young man attending Bacone as she was being transported to Oklahoma Presbyterian College. In 1932, on October 31, they were married and enjoyed a long and happy life through lots of hardships, schools, colleges, and seminary where two Christian lives began.

Carrie did not continue her education along with her husband after they were married but began caring for the three children that blessed their lives and coping with life on a college campus. She and the children remained beside her husband, attending meetings on local, state and national levels. She held many offices in the women's church work. Carrie realized that the Choctaw Presbytery needed a van and she had heard about using green stamps. She told her women's group, "We can do it." She started a campaign for collecting green stamp books to large churches, writing letters to Presbyterian women throughout the United States. Books began pouring in and in two years and with lots of prayers she collected the 2,000 needed books. One name she remembers, because of who he was, Dick Clark, sent 600 books with a note from his church in Philadelphia. It was a happy day when she and two pastors traveled from her area to Collinsville, Oklahoma, to exchange the books and drive the van home.

She dreams big, like a new beautiful church for Mt. Fork Presbyterian Church in Eagletown. Again, she began her campaign by speaking, writing to churches, hard work, and local food and crafts sales to raise the funds needed, and again, she thanks her God because it was a reality and it is a beautiful church in the country.

Carrie is a positive person who wants people to reach out and do things for others. She has received awards and honors on her accomplishments as working with a local teacher and local radio program, KBEL, Idabel. News was announced in the English version and if it pertained to Choctaw families, then Carrie Belle translated in the Choctaw language. She was supported by Choctaw elders who encouraged and supported her actions and commended her.

Carrie used the Trail of Tears saga and performed a skit to show the people of the hardship and sadness the Choctaw people endured and also used it to help others to understand the Choctaw Removal. She again received support from Choctaw elders and children as they worked with Carrie to carry out the skit.

She was selected as The Living Legend in McCurtain County by the AAUW in April 1966 and was also featured in Oklahoma Traditions in McCurtain County.

Carrie Belle is still very active with crafts, sewing, painting, and gardening. At 92, her age may have slowed her down, but her daily routine begins with feeding the birds, admiring and talking to them. She enjoys traveling and above all is proud to be able to remain at home, doing her housework and cooking for her family. She gives thanks to God and reads her Bible daily. She enjoys the song, "Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen in Me," and we all see the twinkle in her eyes and a smile on her face.

This is Carrie Belle Bohanan.



Raymond Wilson, District 4, Poteau, is a U.S. Army veteran who served two years in Japan and upon returning home he enrolled and earned a degree at Poteau Community College, now known as Carl Albert State College. He then received his degree at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He is a retired coach, educator and vocational technical specialist who taught in Smithville, Vinita, Murray State and Valliant school systems.

District 4 Councilperson is Delton Cox.



Marcella Widmar, District 4, Poteau, is active with Ladies Auxiliary of Fleet Reserve Association and is a member of Eastern Star. She has taken exercise classes to help people with arthritis and is certified in Senior Health Insurance Counseling Program, volunteering with seniors. She has worked with Leflore county and Choctaw Election Boards. She is active in fund-raising for senior trips and community activities such as the Children's Christmas Program.



Darrell Dunn, District 4.5, Spiro, was a self-employed truck driver for 40 years, becoming a leasing company to businesses and companies in the Fort Smith area. He is proud to have logged 3 million accident-free miles. His hobbies included hunting and fishing until health conditions slowed him down. For the past 10 years, Dunn and his wife, Bennie, spend a week in Tushka Homma during the Choctaw Labor Day Festival.



Doecha Carol Harris, District 4.5, Spiro, a mother of two, retired with 24 years of service with the U.S. Government Civil Service prior to her employment and retirement with the Choctaw Nation. She work with the Choctaw Nation included administrative clerk at the Rubin White Clinic, as a CHR, then as a field office worker. Her civil service duties included McAlester Ammunition Depot, Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, and for the Public Health Service. She was recently selected as Choctaw Nation Delegate at the 2006 National Indian Conference on Aging, Tulsa.

Councilpersons Delton Cox and Charlotte Jackson share the Spiro Center.



Larry Franklin, District 5, Stigler, is a NICOA trainee, assisting the community with the upkeep of the Choctaw Community Center in Stigler. He served in the National Guard for six years as a helicopter crew chief. His hobbies included playing basketball and he attends the Enterprise Baptist Church. Charlotte Jackson is District 5 Councilperson.



Linda Sue Mitchell, District 5, Spiro, and her husband of 25 years, Edward, raised three children. She was employed as a seamstress for 20 years and CNA for 15 years. She enjoys arts and crafts and visiting with people. She also enjoys her volunteering activities at the Stigler Choctaw Community Center.

Choctaw Nation honors its outstanding elders



James M. Noley, District 6, Wilburton, served in the Army National Guard and as an Army enlistment stationer in Frankfort, Germany. He earned his BS and MS from Northeastern and worked on graduate studies at OU. He taught in schools in Oklahoma and Kansas before returning home to Eastern Oklahoma State College working with the Indian Outreach Program and with the Veterans Affairs Program. He then accepted a position with the University of Central Oklahoma and during his 13 years served as American Indian Counselor, Enrollment Advisor at Tinker Air Force Base and coordinator of multi-cultural student services. He is also an outstanding volunteer at the Wilburton Community Center as van driver, committee treasurer, and helping his fellow elders in the community.

Betty Hall, District 6, Wilburton, (not pictured) has attended Center Point Baptist for the past 40 years and she serves as pianist and assistant teacher for the Women's Class. She is currently the treasurer for Wilburton Choctaw Seniors and has served as secretary for five years. She has volunteered in the pharmacy at the Latimer Christian Free Clinic. She enjoys genealogy and is the treasurer of the Glenn-Tucker Cousins Association. She is a board member of Kiamichi Area Nutrition Project and an active member in the local chapter of Oklahoma Eastern Star. Joe Coley is District 6 Councilperson.



David Davis, District 7, Wright City, is a Vietnam veteran. He was drafted during his senior year at Central State University, Edmond. He received many honors and an Army Commendation Medal during the Vietnam campaign. After returning home, he retired from Weyerhaeuser Company after 36 years as an electrician. He is a member of the First Baptist Church, a Deacon and Adult Sunday School teacher. His hobbies include pitching horseshoes and hunting.



Mary Andoe, District 7, Wright City, attended Wright City High School, graduated from SOSU in 1971 and recently retired from Wright City Public School with 33 years of service. Her hobbies include reading and caring for her plants. She has served as OEA local president for 18 years and has been listed in Who's Who of American Teachers. Jack Austin is the Councilperson for District 7.

Jenny Beth Caraway, District 7, Antlers, (not pictured) has served Pushmataha County as County Treasurer since July 1991 and has been unopposed for the past five terms. She is a member of First United Methodist Church and serves as Church treasurer and youth sponsor. She is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation.



Henry Rodriguez, District 8, Hugo, is an active participant and outstanding volunteer on a weekly basis with the Hugo Senior Nutrition Program. He is the father of six children and a lifetime resident of Choctaw County. His favorite hobby is going out to eat.



Tommie Jones, District 8, Hugo, raised four children and currently resides in Soper. She enjoys time with her grandchildren, fishing and attending the casino on Senior Day. She enjoys fellowship at the Hugo Senior Center and loves singing gospel music. Perry Thompson is the Councilperson for District 8.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, District 9, Durant, was nominated by the Senior participants and Councilmember Ted Dosh of the Durant Center. Chief Pyle is honored for this consideration but his mission statement as a tribal leader is "Always do the right things" and therefore, withdrew his biography to be considered as a candidate for Outstanding Choctaw Male. In 1999, under Chief Pyle's administration, Choctaw Nation began to recognize and honor Outstanding Choctaw elders from each district.



Julia Knight, District 9, Durant, the mother of two children, owned and operated a local grocery store. She did volunteer work at Choctaw Nation, teaching elders ceramics, quilting and crafts, and also volunteered with Three Valley Museum, the school system, and at the hospital for 31 years. She enjoys clubs such as Ohoyohoma, Business and Professional Women, Delphains and American Legion. Her Councilman is Ted Dosh.



Rayson Nichols, District 10, Atoka, is the father of seven children. He served 21 years with the Air Force with duties that included aviation, Intercontinental Ballistic Missile and space exploration. Retiring from the Air Force, he received a teaching certificate, taught school and then served as a school administrator. He was employed by the Choctaw Nation as the Education Director for five years. He is a member of United Methodist Church and serves as Sunday School teacher for young adults. Currently, he is a family caregiver to his sister. "I strive to be a friend to all I meet and to help those in need in anyway I can," said Nichols. His Councilman is Anthony Dillard.



Lorena Cooper, District 10, Atoka, is 83 years old and married to Mose Cooper. She has 10 children, 25 grandchildren and 41 great-grandchildren. She is very active in her church, Coal Creek Cumberland Presbyterian. Lorena was recently selected as Choctaw Nation Delegate at the National Indian Conference on Aging in Tulsa. She speaks Choctaw fluently and is very active in her District 10 Senior Program. She even attended the Lynrd Skynyrd concert in Durant. Her Councilman is Anthony Dillard.



Andrew J. Johnson, District 11, McAlester, retired from the Union Pacific Railroad as a machine operator after 33 years of service. He is an outstanding volunteer at the McAlester Choctaw Senior Center on a weekly basis. He is also an active community volunteer with Camp Plea for the past 22 years, a camp sponsored by Pittsburg County law enforcement for underprivileged and handicapped children. He is a volunteer with Kiowa FFA students assisting with their show animals, transporting animals to county and state events and heavily involved with fund-raising and preparing of the annual banquet. Johnson has also volunteered with the Kiowa, Pittsburg and Blanco Volunteer Fire Departments and for the past 13 years has hosted an annual gospel singing at his family home. He volunteers with his church, mowing the lawns, cleaning the church and transporting youth to different activities. His Councilman is Bob Pate.

Choctaw artists win at art show

At the 2006 Cherokee Art Market on October 14 and 15, four Choctaw artists were honored with awards for their work. Marcus Amerman of Santa Fe, New Mexico, won the Best of Show Award for his beaded vest. Argus Dowdy of Skiatook received the Best of Division for Cultural Items for his hand-carved pipe. Gwen Coleman Lester of Claremore received the Best of Division for Water-based Painting and Norma Howard of Stigler won First Runner up for Water-based Painting. Cherokee Nation sponsored the juried art show held at the Cherokee Casino Resort in Catoosa.



Gwen Coleman Lester, Marcus Amerman, Norma Howard and Argus Dowdy.



Aline Ward, District 11, McAlester, serves as the Vice President of the Senior Center and she coordinates activities and trips for the McAlester Senior Center. She is a member of Victory Park Baptist Church for 45 years, serving as group leader of Naomi Sunday School class and volunteering in the Soup Kitchen every Friday for the past 23 years. She has an LPN license and the patience to work with people and students for a number of years. She worked for 23 1/2 years with Jones Academy as a house parent and health coordinator. Since her retirement she serves as caregiver to family and friends needing transportation to clinics and pharmacies. Her Councilman is Bob Pate.



Eddie H. Barker, District 12, Crowder, attended Chillico Indian School and joined the Navy in 1954. He attended Naval Liviation School in Norman and in Memphis, Tennessee. After returning from his military duty he married Juanita and they are the parents of three children. Today, he enjoys fishing, hunting and gardening. He also enjoys being active and helping at the Crowder Choctaw Center. His Councilman is James Frazier.



Mary Lee Risenhoover, District 12, Crowder, at an early age helped her grandmother raise her younger siblings. She married and had six children of her own, now with grandchildren and great-grandchildren to enjoy. She enjoys reading, cooking and quilting and is known for Amish Friendship Bread that she has shared with many friends. The Amish Bread is very popular at the Crowder Senior Citizens weekly luncheon raffle. She enjoys the socialization at the center's weekly luncheon. Her Councilman is James Frazier.



Nellie Hunter, District 12, Coalgate, entered the U.S. Army WAC after graduating from high school and while stationed in Ryukyu Island was chosen as WAC of the month in November of 1959. She was assigned as Administrative Specialist in the office of Commander in Chief, Pacific Representative US ARMY SIX Corps. After her enlistment she raised her seven children, enrolled in college majoring in accounting and landed a job at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Oklahoma City. Nellie earned awards and was recognized for her dedication and devotion to the Veterans Administration. She returned to Tupelo to begin her family caregiving role, taking care of family. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation Color Guard, secretary/treasurer of the Choctaw Veterans Association, secretary of the Five Tribes Veterans Association and is a Veterans Service Officer. She volunteers with Coalgate Senior Center, selected as a Choctaw Delegate to the 2006 NICOA Conference and works with Choctaw children and youth of Coal County. Her Councilman is James Frazier.

